

**AAP Headquarters**

141 Northwest Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098
Phone: 847/434-4000
Fax: 847/434-8000
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org
www.aap.org

Reply to**Department of Federal Affairs**

Homer Building, Suite 400 N
601 13th St NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202/347-8600
Fax: 202/393-6137
E-mail: kids1st@aap.org

Executive Committee**President**

Judith S. Palfrey, MD, FAAP

President-Elect

O. Marion Burton, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President

David T. Tayloe, Jr, MD, FAAP

Executive Director/CEO

Errol R. Alden, MD, FAAP

Board of Directors**District I**

Edward N. Bailey, MD, FAAP
Salem, MA

District II

Henry A. Schaeffer, MD, FAAP
Brooklyn, NY

District III

Sandra Gibson Hassink, MD, FAAP
Wilmington, DE

District IV

Francis E. Rushton, Jr, MD, FAAP
Beaufort, SC

District V

Marilyn J. Bull MD, FAAP
Indianapolis, IN

District VI

Michael V. Severson, MD, FAAP
Brainerd, MN

District VII

Kenneth E. Matthews, MD, FAAP
College Station, TX

District VIII

Mary P. Brown, MD, FAAP
Bend, OR

District IX

Myles B. Abbott, MD, FAAP
Berkeley, CA

District X

John S. Curran, MD, FAAP
Tampa, FL

July 1, 2010

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
House Education and Labor Committee
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, would like to share our support for H.R. 5504, the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act.

For more than half a century, federal child nutrition programs have alleviated hunger and malnutrition among our nation's infants and children. Tens of millions of American children have received billions of meals through these programs, which represent a vital investment in our nation's health and welfare. The benefits of proper nutrition are well-documented, and child nutrition programs play a key role in ensuring that children have a healthy, well-balanced diet. However, children today are not only faced with potential malnourishment, but also overweight and obesity.

AAP strongly supports H.R. 5504, a bill to reauthorize and improve all the federal child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). This legislation takes significant steps toward increasing the nutritional value of meals served through these programs while also reducing the fat and caloric content to promote a healthy, balanced diet.

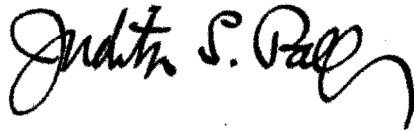
AAP is pleased to endorse this legislation, which seeks to address the twin challenges of hunger and obesity. Specifically, this bill would allow the USDA to institute nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools outside the school meal setting, including vending machines, snack bars, and a la carte lines. H.R. 5504 would improve access to school meal programs by allowing schools to use census data to identify high poverty communities and allow these schools to provide universal meal service to students. In addition, schools would be allowed to utilize Medicaid or CHIP data to directly certify children who meet income requirements without the administrative burden of additional paperwork. The bill would also expand the

School Breakfast Program, the After School Meal Program, and the Summer Food Service Program to ensure children have healthy, nutritious meals throughout the day and year.

AAP appreciates your attention to improving meal quality and access for infants and young children served by WIC and CACFP. This bill would improve meal access for children in home-based child care by reducing administrative costs for child care sponsors and promoting stronger collaboration and nutrition education coordination between child care programs and local WIC agencies. The WIC program would also improve efficiency and program administration by transitioning from paper food vouchers to an electronic benefit program for the first time. In addition, the WIC program would be improved by extending the period of certification from six months to one year and increasing support for breastfeeding promotion and nutrition education at WIC clinics.

Good nutrition is critical to children's health, development, and ability to learn and grow. The American Academy of Pediatrics appreciates your commitment to improving child health and nutrition. We are pleased to support H.R. 5504, the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act, and look forward to working with you toward its successful passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith S. Palfrey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith S. Palfrey, MD FAAP
President

JSP:km