

November 30, 2010

Dear Representative Miller:

On behalf of the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and our more than five million parents, teachers, students, and other child advocates, **we are writing to express our strong support and encourage House passage of S. 3307, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act.** This legislation increases access to vital anti-hunger measures, improves the nutrition quality of foods served in schools, and provides the supports necessary for school food service workers to meet the needs of American children. It is essential that these improvements become a reality, and our children can not wait another year for us to address their health and well-being.

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act is the result of an historic public policy undertaking with which PTA has been closely involved from the beginning and includes bipartisan compromise, garnering unanimous support in the Senate, while remaining uncompromised in its support of children and families. The reasonable, common sense measures included in this bill will allow child nutrition programs and school foods to enter the 21st century, acknowledging modern scientific nutrition information, eliminating bureaucratic barriers to program participation, and providing increased resources to school food service providers in order to make these lofty goals a reality.

In March of last year, PTA testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee with our recommendations for the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act, focusing in large part on the need to update nutrition standards for competitive foods in schools. Along with many of our other recommendations, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act includes this provision, requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to update standards for foods served in vending machines, school stores, a la carte menus and other venues throughout the school day for the first time since 1979. **The measure will effectively eliminate the constant presence of junk food in school while allowing reasonable practices like periodic PTA or other school group fundraisers, such as bake sales, and the sale of hot dogs and soda at afterschool sporting events.**

We recognize the responsibility that PTA has to protect and preserve the well-being of our nation's youth. All across this country, state and local PTAs are embracing healthier fundraising options of our own volition, implementing a variety of school and community-based programs to educate and encourage healthier lifestyles, and working to support the children in our communities that are the most in need. **At a time when one third of America's youth are either overweight or obese and one fourth are food insecure, we have continued our legacy to work toward making every child's potential a reality, and ask that you join us in this effort by passing the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act.**

I thank you and your staff members for your efforts on behalf of youth across the country. For additional information on this matter, please contact PTA's Health Policy Analyst, James Vanderhook, at jvanderhook@pta.org or 703-518-1200, ext. 3331.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck J. Saylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles J. "Chuck" Saylor

National PTA President