Nemours

Nemours Office Child Health Policy and Advocacy 1201 15th Street Suite 350 Washington, DC 20005

July 13, 2010

Congressman George Miller Chair, House Education & Labor Committee 2205 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Platts,

Nemours is pleased to endorse H.R.5504, the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act of 2010, a bipartisan piece of legislation that will greatly impact the future health of our nation. Supporting healthy child development through enhancement of federal nutrition programs is a key policy priority and your bill includes an array of provisions that will help children develop healthy habits that will last a lifetime.

As a leader in the fight against childhood obesity, Nemours, a premier integrated child health system serving 250,000 children mainly in Delaware and Florida, recognizes the value of working with schools and child care providers where children spend so much time.

Your comprehensive bill addresses key issues that have in the past prevented children from developing healthier eating, physical activity and screen time habits. The following provisions included in the bill particularly resonate with Nemours, since we have successfully implemented a multi-sector approach to obesity prevention in Delaware, including advancement of these same policies:

- o **Promoting nutrition and wellness in child care settings** through establishment of higher nutrition standards for child care providers participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and providing tools, technical assistance and training to help providers implement the standards.
- Strengthening local school wellness policies by improving implementation
 of these policies and making them more transparent to stakeholders and the
 public.
 - Adopting national nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools by giving the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to implement such standards for all foods sold on the school campus throughout the school day.

Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children Wilmington, Delaware

Nemours Cardiac Center Wilmington, Delaware

Nemours Center for Children's Health Media

Nemours Children's Clinic Jacksonville, Florida Orlando, Florida Pensacola, Florida Wilmington, Delaware

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- **Enhance funding for nutrition education** to support healthy eating and wellness.
- **Establish public-private partnerships** that promote community-based strategies to promote healthy eating and physical activity.

Nemours commends your determination to support healthy child development and is pleased to endorse the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act of 2010. This momentous bill has the capacity to change our nation's policies to ensure that our children grow up healthy. We believe that it is critical to develop healthy habits early in life, as the latest research demonstrates.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Anne De Biasi, Director of the Office of Child Health Policy and Advocacy at 202-457-1440.

Sincerely,

Debbie I. Chang, MPH

Vice President, Policy and Prevention

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