

The Honorable Sam Farr
1126 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Farr,

The undersigned organizations and companies are writing to support your **Children's Fruit and Vegetable Act of 2009**. The upcoming reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act provides a critical opportunity to increase the availability of fruits and vegetables in school meals to improve children's eating habits and promote good health.

America's children eat less than half of the daily amount of fruits and vegetables recommended for good health by the 2005 Dietary Guidelines. By law, school meals should be consistent with the latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans, yet school meals currently contain far fewer fruits and vegetables than recommended. To meet these dietary guidelines, both school lunch and school breakfast programs should include at least one additional serving of fruits and/or vegetables. Increasing children's access to high quality, great-tasting fruits and vegetables in school meals is a proven way to get children to eat healthier foods.

We support The Children's Fruit and Vegetable Act of 2009 because it will:

- **Promote the use of school salad bars or fruit and vegetable bars as an evidence-based strategy that will increase children's consumption of fruits and vegetables.**
- **Provide infrastructure investment for purchasing cafeteria equipment specifically to help schools serve more fresh fruits and vegetables.**
- **Provide training and technical assistance, emphasizing best practices, which will improve the effectiveness of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program and improve the healthfulness of school lunch and breakfast.**
- **Expand the variety and amount of fresh fruits and vegetables purchased by USDA and available to schools thru USDA Food and Nutrition Service.**
- **Improve the quality of school meals by requiring USDA to update nutrition standards based on recommendations of the Institute of Medicine.**

The time to act is now. Our nation is faced with a childhood obesity crisis that threatens the long-term health of our children. Increasing children's access to fruits and vegetables will significantly improve the healthfulness of school meals.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

(Your company/association name here)