



January 18, 2011

The Honorable Charles McIlhinney  
 Senate Box 203010  
 187 Main Capitol Building  
 Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senator McIlhinney:

**Subject: Reintroduction of Child Nutrition Legislation**

As you may know, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HH-FK) was signed into law by President Obama on December 13, 2010. Key provisions of the legislation call for revised nutritional standards for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, with which school districts must comply to receive an additional \$.06 cents per lunch in reimbursement, and new mandatory standards for all competitive foods. The new standards for food sold outside the subsidized school meal programs will be established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and based upon recommendations put forth by the National Academies' Institute of Medicine. The law also requires periodic measurement, assessment and reporting of local school wellness policy implementation.

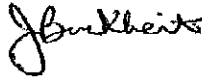
Districts' cost of providing free lunches, however, exceeds the federal reimbursement rate by over thirty cents per meal (USDA). Moreover, according to estimates by the National School Boards Association, compliance with the new meal standards will increase costs by \$.11 to \$.25 cents, further widening the existent reimbursement gap. Under current reimbursement rates, a district serving subsidized lunches to 5,000 students has a potential shortfall of \$270,000. Under HH-FK, the shortfall could equal \$324,000, a \$54,000 increase.

Since the passage of this legislation and the substantial changes contained therein, we are writing to request that you forego reintroduction of SB 1419 in this new legislative session. Instead, we are asking that you consider sponsoring legislation that would increase state reimbursement rates. These rates have not increased since 2000 and are simply insufficient to cover the actual cost of meeting higher nutrition standards. Pursuant to section 1337.1 of the Public School Code, program year 2010 reimbursement rates are as follows:

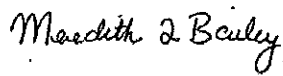
	Regular Rate	School Nutrition Incentive Rate
Lunch	\$.10 cents	\$.01 cents
Breakfast	\$.10 cents	\$.01 cents
Additional amount for Lunch if breakfast participation >20%	\$.04 cents	\$.02 cents
Additional amount for Lunch if breakfast participation <= 20%	\$.02 cents	\$.01 cents

We understand the state is facing a critical budget shortfall. Nonetheless, escalating food costs and changing federal nutrition standards necessitate an increase in the reimbursement rates. Any increase in reimbursement rates for participants in the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs would assist school districts in their continued efforts to provide healthy meals to the Commonwealth's children.

Sincerely,



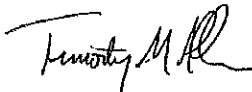
Jim Buckheit, Executive Director  
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Meredith Bailey, President  
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Jhv



January 18, 2011

The Honorable Mike Gerber  
 PO Box 202148  
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2148

Dear Representative Gerber:

**Subject: Reintroduction of Child Nutrition Legislation**

As you may know, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HH-FK) was signed into law by President Obama on December 13, 2010. Key provisions of the legislation call for revised nutritional standards for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program, with which school districts must comply to receive an additional \$.06 cents per lunch in reimbursement, and new mandatory standards for all competitive foods. The new standards for food sold outside the subsidized school meal programs will be established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and based upon recommendations put forth by the National Academies' Institute of Medicine. The law also requires periodic measurement, assessment and reporting of local school wellness policy implementation.

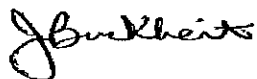
Districts' cost of providing free lunches, however, exceeds the federal reimbursement rate by over thirty cents per meal (USDA). Moreover, according to estimates by the National School Boards Association, compliance with the new meal standards will increase costs by \$.11 to \$.25 cents, further widening the existent reimbursement gap. Under current reimbursement rates, a district serving subsidized lunches to 5,000 students has a potential shortfall of \$270,000. Under HH-FK, the shortfall could equal \$324,000, a \$54,000 increase.

Since the passage of this legislation and the substantial changes contained therein, we are writing to request that you forego reintroduction of HB 1572 in this new legislative session. Instead, we are asking that you consider sponsoring legislation that would increase state reimbursement rates. These rates have not increased since 2000 and are simply insufficient to cover the actual cost of meeting higher nutrition standards. Pursuant to section 1337.1 of the Public School Code, program year 2010 reimbursement rates are as follows:

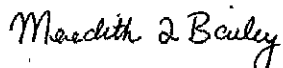
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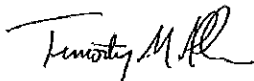
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Jhv