

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2008

Dear Colleague,

For many children, summertime is a joyful time of cookouts, pool parties, and spending time with family and friends. Unfortunately, there is also a serious downside to summer vacation in many communities across America. Too often, empty classrooms can mean empty stomachs for many low-income children who receive subsidized school meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

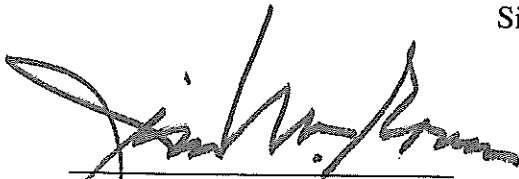
During the school year, 18 million low-income children benefit from federally-subsidized free or reduced-price breakfasts and lunches. During summer vacation months, however, only one in every five of these children eats a free summer lunch.

This summer, with the rising prices of food and fuel, low-income communities are particularly vulnerable to the effects of childhood hunger. During summer vacation, it is important to remember that millions of children in the United States suffer from food insecurity while their parents or guardians struggle to make ends meet in a worsening economy.

The Summer Food Program provides low-income children healthy meals and supports high quality summer programs that keep children learning and safe during the summer months, while their parents are working. Many programs offer educational, enrichment and recreational activities, nutrition education, and mentoring.

We encourage you to visit summer feeding sites in your district to see firsthand how these programs impact your constituents and your communities. Furthermore, raising the profile of these sites could have a significant impact on the lives of children in your district. If you have questions or would like assistance arranging a site visit in your state feel free to contact Rachel Winch in Congressman McGovern's office (5-6101) or Justin Rone with Congresswoman Emerson (5-4404).

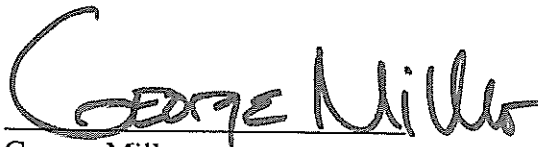
Sincerely,



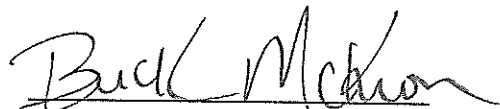
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress



George Miller
Member of Congress



Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress