



September 20, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
SH-522
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
SR-361A
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
235 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
LHOB 1705
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable John A. Boehner
House Minority Leader
United State House of Representatives
1011 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

I write to reiterate APHSA's position concerning the child nutrition reauthorization bill, S. 3307, passed by the Senate on August 5. APHSA's members support a strong and effective child nutrition reauthorization measure, but we are very concerned that the bill would be funded in large part by termination in 2013 of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefit increase enacted in last year's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. SNAP is a vital safety net and nutrition support program, and the ARRA SNAP increases have helped keep food on the table for millions during this severe recession and have helped assure that these families are better equipped to maintain their children's health and to fight such problems as childhood obesity.

However, this badly needed ARRA increase has already been substantially reduced by the legislation that extended state funding for teacher's jobs and state FMAP Medicaid needs. This was a necessary move to assure passage of the FMAP extension, a major priority for the states, but we are strongly opposed to any additional SNAP cuts. All nutrition programs should be adequately funded, but it is unacceptable to make further reductions in SNAP, the nation's premiere mechanism to provide nutrition assistance.

We appreciate your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Larry Goolsby, Director of Legislative Affairs, at (202) 682-0100 ext. 239 or lgoolsby@aphsa.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cari DeSantis".

Cari DeSantis
Interim Executive Director