

# Creating a Healthier Future by Protecting and Strengthening the **CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

The School Nutrition Programs, Summer and Afterschool Nutrition Programs, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) all play important roles in reducing childhood hunger, supporting good nutrition, and ensuring that students and young children are hunger-free and ready to learn and thrive.

**SUPPORT THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS BY COSPONSORING THE FOLLOWING BILLS.**

## SCHOOL MEALS

- ▶ **The Healthy Meals Help Kids Learn Act (H.R. 5753), introduced by Rep. McGovern (D-MA):** The bill would increase federal reimbursement rates for school breakfast and lunch.
- ▶ **The Farm to School Act of 2025 (H.R. 6065/S. 3127), introduced by Rep. Plaskett (D-VI) and Sen. Welch (D-VT):** The bill would expand and improve the Farm to School Program by increasing annual mandatory funding and reducing application barriers.
- ▶ **The School Food Modernization Act (H.R. 5731), introduced by Rep. DeSaulnier (D-CA) and Rep. Thompson (R-PA):** This bill would provide funding to help schools purchase equipment, upgrade infrastructure, and provide professional development that supports school nutrition professionals' ability to provide students with nutritious school meals.
- ▶ **Military Dependents School Meal Eligibility Act of 2026 (H.R. 7259), introduced by Reps. Mike Levin (D-CA) and Mackenzie (R-PA):** This bill would expand military families' access to free and reduced-price school meals by removing servicemembers' Basic Allowance for Housing from eligibility determinations and study the feasibility of including children in households with a member of a uniformed service as a group that can be directly certified for free school meals without an application.

## SUMMER NUTRITION

- ▶ **The Stop Child Hunger Act of 2025 (S. 1622/H.R. 3217), introduced by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA), and Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT):** This bill would expand the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT) Program by increasing the amount of benefits a family receives, providing benefits during school breaks and unanticipated school closures longer than five days,

supporting state implementation by phasing in the 50 percent administrative fund match, and providing funds for implementation grants of the program.

- ▶ **The Bridge to Summer Nutrition Act (H.R. 6819), introduced by Rep. David Scott (D-GA):** This bill would increase the federal share of administrative costs for both SNAP and Summer EBT to 90 percent, if the state is operating the Summer EBT Program.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD

- ▶ **The Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act (S. 1447/H.R. 2818), introduced by Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Tina Smith (D-MN), and Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Ryan Mackenzie (R-PA), and Greg Landsman (D-OH):** This bill would add a third meal service to CACFP, change the payment system for family child care homes to align with centers, and simplify eligibility reporting for for-profit child care centers by allowing annual eligibility.
- ▶ **The Child Care Nutrition Enhancement Act (S. 1420/H.R. 2859), introduced by Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Tina Smith (D-MN), and Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Greg Landsman (D-OH):** This bill would increase the snack and meal reimbursement rate by 10 cents and eliminate the two-tier system of qualifying for family child care homes. All homes would receive the higher rate.
- ▶ **The More Options to Develop and Enhance Remote Nutrition (MODERN) WIC Act (H.R. 1464)/21st Century WIC Act (S. 3842), introduced by Reps. Brian K. Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) in the House and Sens. Roger Marshall (R-KS) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) in the Senate:** The bill would create permanent options for remote certification and benefit issuance for WIC currently allowed through waivers. Those waivers will expire as early as September 2026 without congressional action.

# HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL

Offering school meals to all students at no charge is a game changer for students, families, and schools, ensuring that all students can access the nutrition they need to be successful in the classroom and beyond. **Please cosponsor the following bills** to support a nationwide pathway toward Healthy School Meals for All.

▶ **The School Meal Modernization and Hunger Elimination Act (S. 1431)**, introduced by Sen. John Fetterman (D-PA): The bill would increase federal funding for community eligibility schools by increasing the multiplier to 2.5 and authorizes temporary statewide CEP demonstration projects in up to five states. The bill also expands access to free and reduced-price school meals by strengthening and mandating direct certification through programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, adoption and kinship assistance, and certain housing programs. The bill ensures meal eligibility follows children when they transfer schools, allows extended eligibility for children living with grandparents or relatives, and requires retroactive reimbursement to schools and families when children are certified for free or reduced-price meals later in the school year.

▶ **The Kids Need Lunch Act (H.R. 7542)**, introduced by Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL): This bill would guarantee school lunch for all students at no charge, fully reimburse schools at the highest federal rate, and reimburse schools for debt previously accrued.

▶ **The Feed Hungry Kids Act (H.R. 5128)**, introduced by Rep. Laura Gillen (D-NY): The bill would codify the eligibility threshold for schools using the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) at 25 percent identified student percentage.

▶ **The No Hungry Kids in School Act (H.R. 2402)**, introduced by Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA): The bill would create a statewide community eligibility option for states to support a Healthy School Meals for All policy.

▶ **The Expanding Access to School Meals Act (H.R. 2680)**, introduced by Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ): The bill would increase funding for community eligibility schools by increasing the multiplier to 2.5; expand direct certification by including Medicaid as a category; increase eligibility for free meals up to 224 percent of the federal poverty level; make eligibility for free school meals retroactive to the beginning of the school year.

▶ **The Caregivers, Access and Responsible Expansion (CARE) for Kids Act of 2025 (H.R. 4451)**, introduced by Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT): The bill would expand eligibility for free meals to children who are raised by a relative that receives adoption/guardianship assistance, placed in a relative's home by state or Tribal agencies, raised by grandparents or older adults living in low-income housing or receiving housing assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996. It also ensures children can keep their free meal eligibility when they move in with a grandparent or other relative and that the eligibility stays with them for 12 months.