

Coalition of Anti-hunger, Education, Child Advocacy, Nutrition, and Public Health Organizations, and Industry Call on Congress to Extend Child Nutrition Waivers

March 9, 2022 – The failure to include the extension of the child nutrition waivers in the omnibus spending bill released today by Congress will reverberate across the nation in schools, community centers, afterschool and summer programs, and child care centers. Millions of children will face a hunger cliff when they lose access to school, summer, afterschool, and child care meals on July 1, with Black, Latinx, and Indigenous populations and children in rural communities being hit the hardest. Programs also will take another financial hit putting them at risk for long-term sustainability.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, our organizations have worked tirelessly to ensure that children have access to meals through child nutrition programs. Together, we have called on Congress to extend the waiver authority for another school year to support children and families as they recover from the educational, health, and economic impacts of the pandemic.

We continue to push lawmakers to support schools and program operators as they work diligently, despite ongoing supply chain and labor shortage challenges, to provide children much-needed meals and work to overcome the educational, as well as social and emotional impacts that they are seeing in the children that they serve.

This is critical. Research reinforces that when children go hungry, it has profound and long-term consequences on their physical health and development, their ability to learn, and future economic success.

We urge Congress to include child nutrition waiver authority through the 2022-2023 school year in the omnibus bill before its final passage.

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Afterschool Alliance

American Commodity Distribution Association

American Heart Association

Association of Education Service Agencies

Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Bread for the World

Center for Science in the Public Interest

Children's Defense Fund

Feeding America

FoodCorps

Food Research & Action Center

First Focus on Children

International Fresh Produce Association

MomsRising

National Education Association

National Farm to School Network

National PTA

National Recreation and Park Association

National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium

National Rural Education Association

Save the Children

School Nutrition Association

Share Our Strength

Urban School Food Alliance

YMCA of the USA