

NEW FUNDING FOR FEDERAL FOOD PROGRAM

On November 6, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) introduced the Access to Nutritious Meals for Young Children Act of 2009 (S. 2749). This legislation would increase federal support for Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), so that child care providers and Head Start programs can continue to serve nutritious foods and give the young children in their care the best, healthy start possible. Here is an overview of the bill:

- **Increasing CACFP reimbursement rates** for family child care homes, Head Start, and child care centers by 20 cents per meal and 10 cents per snack to help offset the high cost of nutritious foods.
- **Adding a third meal or snack option** for children in child care and Head Start, helping to cover the costs of food for children who are in care for longer hours.
- **Expanding CACFP family child care home area eligibility** from 50 percent to 40 percent, so that child care homes automatically receive the highest CACFP reimbursement rates if they are located in areas where 40% or more of the children in the local school are eligible for free and reduced price meals.
- **Streamlining and simplifying** program and paperwork requirements for states, sponsoring organizations, Head Start programs, child care providers and parents.
- **Increasing the administrative reimbursement rate for CACFP sponsoring organizations** by \$5 per family child care home per month and protecting rates from negative cost of living

Take Action!

Email your Senators today to tell them about the benefits of CACFP and the value of the nutritious meals served in early childhood programs. Urge them to cosponsor S. 2749! **Call Senator Amy Klobuchar 202-224-3244 or email her at Klobuchar.senate.gov/emailamy.cfm**

In 2010, Congress will review the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) through reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act. Reauthorization is an important opportunity for us to improve quality and funding levels for CACFP and make sure our members' voices are heard! As the reauthorization process moves forward, we will be in touch about other opportunities to weigh in and re-shape this vital program.

