



November 17, 2010

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
House Education and Labor Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kline
Ranking Member
House Education and Labor Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member Kline:

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, National Catholic Educational Association and National Catholic Rural Life Conference believe reducing hunger and improving nutrition for children is a national priority. We appreciate the efforts you and your colleagues have taken to reauthorize child nutrition programs this year. Now, we write to urge you to finalize this process by pursuing a way forward that:

- Allows the House to pass the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (S.3307) prior to adjourning the 111th Congress;
- Ensures that food stamps (SNAP) is vigorously safeguarded from further cuts; and,
- Restores the food stamp cuts and addresses gaps in access to child nutrition programs through other timely vehicles.

We are dedicated to promoting the common good for all and advocating on behalf of those in our midst with the greatest need. The effects of this great recession have been particularly difficult on families, the unemployed and especially children. We are deeply troubled and concerned by a proposed, flawed policy that calls for a reduction in food stamp benefits. Families and children in need depend on these programs to ensure that their basic nutritional requirements are met. Children remain one of the most vulnerable groups in our nation. To cut these programs would only serve to further destabilize families and children in need.

Child Nutrition Reauthorization offers the opportunity to improve nutrition for all children and to combat hunger. Meeting the needs of so many families in need of basic nutrition is an important federal investment in the health, stability and well being of our nation. As we have

Child Nutrition Letter to House Leadership
November 17, 2010
Page 2

stated previously, we urge you to make Child Nutrition reauthorization a priority and a moral imperative in federal efforts to combat poverty and hunger in this country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William F. Murphy".

Most Reverend William F. Murphy
Diocese of Rockville Centre
Chairman, Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Curry".

Most Reverend Thomas J. Curry
Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles
Chairman, Committee on Catholic Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale McDonald, PBVM".

Sr. Dale McDonald, PBVM, PhD
Director of Public Policy
National Catholic Educational Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Ennis".

James Ennis
Executive Director
National Catholic Rural Life Conference