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June 9, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Davis
Member
Subcommittee on Nutrition
United States House of Representatives
1740 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brad Ashford
Member
Subcommittee on Nutrition
United States House of Representatives
107 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Our Mission
Working with and
Through our State
Associations, NSBA
Advocates for Equity
and Excellence in
Public Education
through School Board
Leadership

Re: *National School Boards Association Support for the Healthy School Meals Flexibility Act*

Office of Advocacy

Dear Representative Davis & Representative Ashford:

John D. Tuttle
President

The National School Boards Association (NSBA), representing more than 90,000 local school board members across the nation, working with and through our state school boards associations, is pleased to support H.R. 2508, the *Healthy School Meals Flexibility Act*.

Thomas J. Gentzel
Executive Director

Lucy Gettman
Deputy Associate Executive
Director

School board members are deeply committed to fostering a healthy and positive learning environment for children to achieve their full potential. At the same time, NSBA is acutely aware of the operational and financial impact on school districts of regulatory requirements and deadlines established under the authority of the *Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act*. Therefore, NSBA supports the flexibility established by the *Healthy School Meals Flexibility Act* to:

1. Retain the current requirement that 50% of grains offered for lunch and breakfast be whole grain rich rather than further increasing the requirement to 100%, to ameliorate cost and market barriers to implementation.
2. Retain July 1, 2014 Target 1 sodium levels, and prevent regulatory mandates for further reduction of sodium levels for school meals.

The legislation is particularly important in light of the pending reauthorization of PL 111-296 by Congress this year. NSBA urges Congress to restore local leadership and flexibility to federal school meal policies, and to provide sufficient federal resources to school districts in a modernized law.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important issue. We look forward to working with you to support efforts to provide highly nutritious meals to students and provide schools with flexibility to meet local needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Gentzel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Thomas J. Gentzel
Executive Director, NSBA