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Action for Healthy Kids Launches National Petition Drive

Leading non-profit fighting childhood obesity gathering signatures, support for child nutrition bill

Chicago (August 20, 2010) – With one in three American children overweight or obese and one in four at risk for hunger, [Action for Healthy Kids](#) has launched a [national petition drive](#) to urge Congress to pass a strong, well-funded child nutrition bill before time runs out September 30.

“Research has shown us that eating healthy, nutritious meals helps children concentrate better, improves their academic skills, and reduces their risk of becoming overweight or obese,” says Rob Bisceglie, executive director, Action for Healthy Kids. “So the stakes are too high for Congress not to act in the best interest of our children.”

[The petition](#) is simple and straight-forward:

I support healthier lunch and breakfast at school, and for offering healthier food in school vending machines. Congress must pass an improved and well-funded child nutrition bill this summer. Our kids deserve better.

Investments, improvements at risk

Every five years Congress has an opportunity to re-work and pass the Federal Child Nutrition Programs, which among other things ensure that children have access to nutritious, quality food each school day. The latest legislation, The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, expired on September 30, 2009, but was extended by one year. It expires again on September 30.

The Senate unanimously passed the [Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act \(S. 3307\)](#), which provides \$450 million in new annual funding to get healthier food in school vending machines and to improve the quality of school meals. It also increases the number of children receiving free meals. The U.S. House of Representatives went home in early August without voting on a child nutrition bill. Bisceglie said it is important to not jeopardize the nutrition and hunger programs for needy children and families. “Historic investments and improvement that can help our children be healthier and go a long way in helping us end childhood obesity and hunger are at risk,” he said.

Action for Healthy Kids intends to share the signed [petition](#) with public officials to show them how much people care and that they need to take action this year.

As part of this crucial effort, Action for Healthy Kids also is calling on everyone who is committed to helping our kids be healthier and to making schools healthier places [to contact their Congressional representatives](#) in late August or early September to make sure their voices are heard on this very important issue.

About Action for Healthy Kids

[Action for Healthy Kids](#)[®] is the nation's leading nonprofit and volunteer network fighting childhood obesity and undernourishment by helping schools become healthier places and our kids learn to eat right, be active every day and be ready to learn. A collaboration of more than 67 organizations, corporations and government agencies supports grassroots efforts by thousands of volunteers nationwide. In 2009 Action for Healthy Kids reached nearly 4 million students in 8,000 schools. More information is available on [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#).

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