



June 17, 2013

The Honorable Frank Lucas, Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson, Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Peterson:

As the nation's largest volunteer child advocacy association, the National PTA has significantly impacted improvements to the well-being and education of America's children and families for 115 years. Currently with millions of members and 24,000 local units in every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Europe, National PTA continues to be a powerful voice for all children by advocating for federal policies to improve opportunity for all children and their families.

National PTA applauds your leadership in reauthorizing the Farm Bill in a bipartisan way this Congress. As the committee begins reauthorization efforts, we request that you consider our members' concerns related to deep cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management (FARRM) Act (H.R. 1947) contains more than \$20.5 billion in cuts to SNAP. PTA is deeply concerned about the potential for 210,000 children to lose access to free school meals, and another 850,000 families seeing their benefits cut.

As PTA members, we advocate for *all* children. Aside from the critical role SNAP plays in providing children and families with basic nutritional needs, we know that children who go to school hungry have a more difficult time learning than those who do not. As we work to improve the quality of education students receive in the United States, we must not simultaneously allow basic nutrition programs to be cut to levels that will impact children receiving the nutrition they need to grow into healthy, successful adults.

We look forward to working with you as reauthorization efforts continue. If you have any questions, please contact Mollie Van Lieu at mvanlieu@pta.org or (717) 476-1283. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy Landers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Betsy Landers
President
National PTA