



September 18, 2013

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the more than four million members of National PTA, I ask that you VOTE NO on the *Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act of 2013* (H.R. 3102). This legislation would impose deep cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides the most vulnerable Americans, including children, with essential access to food. Among the cuts are provisions that would undermine the automatic enrollment of low-income children in school meals programs. 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.

Kids consume up to half of their daily calories in school, which means that it is essential that *all* students have access to basic nutrition during their school day. Adequate nourishment is essential for learning and improves school attendance, behavior and productivity. Furthermore, children who come to school hungry face an inability to concentrate; poor academic performance; and persistent headaches and stomach aches. SNAP funding is critical to ensuring academic success, as well as general health and well-being for our students. As we work to improve the quality of education that students receive in the United States, we must not allow basic nutrition programs to be cut to levels that impact children receiving the nutrition they need to grow into healthy, successful adults.

As PTA members, we advocate for *all* children. As the nation's largest volunteer child advocacy association, National PTA has significantly impacted improvements to the well-being and education of America's children and families for 117 years. Today, National PTA continues to be a powerful voice for all children and their families. PTA has long sought to improve child nutrition and wellness and prides itself on having been instrumental in the formation of federal policy in this area since its inception in 1897. A fundamental component of PTA's mission has always been to preserve children's health and protect them from harm.

Again, we ask that you vote no on this harmful legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Mollie Van Lieu at mvanlieu@pta.org or (717) 476-1283. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s

Stella Edwards
Chairman
National PTA Legislative Committee