



October 5th, 2012

The Honorable Kevin W. Concannon
Under Secretary
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, USDA
1400 Independence Ave., SW, Suite 216E Whitten Building
Washington, D.C. 20250-0106

Dear Under Secretary Concannon:

The "No Hungry Kids Act," that was introduced by Representatives Steve King (R-Iowa) and Tim Huelskamp (R-Kansas), would repeal the new school meal nutrition standards and prevent the setting of rules that limit the number of calories a school could provide in a federally-reimbursed school lunch. Illinois Stewardship Alliance feels Representative King's and Representative Huelskamp's efforts are very misguided.

As an alliance of farmers, consumers and advocates working to support local food systems and sustainable agriculture we find such attempts to be misguided on a number of levels. From the consumer perspective where our members are both parents and eaters interested in supporting the consumption of healthy and locally sourced food, we believe repealing the newly established standards will be detrimental to efforts to develop farm-to-school programs and other initiatives to increase the consumption of healthy fresh fruits and vegetables that are sourced regionally and locally. From the farmer perspective the new school meal standards create additional market opportunities for the small to medium diversified specialty crop producers that we are proud to call members of our alliance. Repealing the new school meal nutrition standards could very well mean fewer economic opportunities for small to medium specialty crop producers.

Illinois Stewardship Alliance sees the new school meal nutrition standards and calorie limits as a positive step in the right direction that will provide healthy fare for students and expanded opportunities for farmers throughout Illinois. On behalf of all of our members we urge to support the new standards and calorie limits and reject calls to do otherwise.

Sincerely,

Wes King
Policy Director