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As Congressional Hearing Debates “Improving Nutrition for America’s Children Act,” Campaign to End Obesity Urges Swift Passage

(Washington DC) Today, the Campaign to End Obesity urged members of House Education and Labor Committee to commit to policy steps that are needed to turn the tide on one of America’s costliest disease. During a full Committee hearing, Members of Congress considered the “Improving Nutrition for America’s Children Act,” H.R. 5504, bipartisan legislation to improve the nutritional quality of meals in schools and child care settings. The bill reflects several Campaign priorities by proposing to expand access to healthy meals year-round in schools, child care, and community-based settings. Currently, over 32 million children rely on the federal child nutrition programs.

“This legislation represents vital steps to ensure that all Americans—and particularly infants, children, parents and the elderly— have access to healthy, affordable and nutritious foods so that we may begin to reverse America’s obesity epidemic,” said Penny Lee, Executive Director of the Campaign to End Obesity. “The Campaign commends the Committee for bringing this proposal up for review and urges swift passage in the House.”

The legislation includes a number of key provisions the Campaign has long supported, including:

- Improving the quality of school meals through enhanced nutritional standards;
- Increased reimbursement for federal school lunches;
- Establishing minimum nutritional standards for all foods sold on school campuses; and
- Promoting overall wellness through better nutrition and increased physical activity.

The legislation also includes several important provisions of the “Healthy CHOICES Act,” which was recently introduced by Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI) and which specifically focuses on improving nutrition and wellness of participants in the Child and Adult Care Food Program. In addition, H.R. 5504 includes a strong “Farm-to-school” grant program, as well as important provisions aimed at improving the integrity and administration of the program.

"The Campaign to End Obesity looks forward to working with Chairman Miller and all Members of the Committee as the bill moves forward to ensure these important programs provide healthier food for the millions of Americans that rely on federal food assistance programs," continued Lee.

The Campaign has submitted an official statement for the record to the Committee on Education and Labor. A copy of this statement may be found [here](#).

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About the Campaign

The Campaign to End Obesity is dedicated to reversing America's costliest disease. Ending this epidemic requires change – in individuals, institutions and communities. The Campaign convenes leaders from industry, academia, public health and associations to speak with one voice for federal policies to reverse the obesity epidemic and promote healthy weight in children and adults.