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For Immediate Release

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Campaign Applauds Bipartisan Majority Support for Senate Passage of Child Nutrition Bill

Washington, D.C. (June 2, 2010) – The Campaign to End Obesity commends the public stance of a bipartisan majority of Senators who recently urged Senate leaders to pass critical Child Nutrition legislation. In a recent letter to Senate leaders, 53 Senators, led by the bipartisan leadership of the Senate Agriculture Committee, “urge swift passage” of the Health, Hunger-Free Kids Acts. The Campaign to End Obesity applauds this strong, bipartisan push to enact the Child Nutrition bill and joins these Senators in urging speedy passage of the measure.

As noted in the letter, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act would reauthorize several major federal food programs including the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

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

- Increased funding for nutritious meals;
- Requiring an update of nutritional standards;
- Increased reimbursement for federal school lunches; and
- Promoting overall wellness through better nutrition and increased physical activity.

In addition, the measure would require local educational agencies to ensure that all food served on school campuses “promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.” The Campaign is encouraged to see many anti-obesity provisions included in the legislation and will continue to work with the Senate to ensure these important programs provide healthier food for the millions of Americans that rely on federal food assistance programs.

“This is a critical time in our Nation’s effort to combat America’s costliest medical condition,” said Penny Lee, Executive Director of the Campaign. “The Senate faces an immediate, historic opportunity to make real gains against the growing obesity epidemic and swift passage of the measure will help to begin to reverse the rates of overweight and obesity in America.”

About the Campaign

The Campaign to End Obesity is dedicated to reversing America’s costliest disease. Right now, two-thirds of adults and 1 in 3 children struggle with overweight and obesity. Taxpayers, governments and businesses spend billions on obesity-related conditions each year, including an estimated \$147 billion in medical costs.

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.

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