



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2016

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member Farr:

We write to urge the subcommittee to provide \$35 million in the FY 2017 Department of Agriculture Appropriations bill for grants under section 105 of the Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-296) to help reduce the number of children who start the school day on an empty stomach and not adequately prepared to learn.

Requested funds will help local educational agencies and schools increase access to breakfast, establish, maintain, or expand their school breakfast programs, for low-income children.

The school breakfast program is a proven way to provide low-income children with a nutritious meal to start the school day. Yet despite improvements, the latest *School Breakfast Scorecard* by the Food Research and Action Center using USDA data found that in 2014-2015 school year, about half (54 for every 100) of all low-income students who participated in school lunch also ate school breakfast--up from a ratio of 53:100 the prior year and 44:100 a decade earlier. Millions of eligible low-income students are missing an opportunity to start their school day strong.

The science is clear: hunger hinders learning and child development. Connecting kids to programs like school breakfast helps ensure they get the healthy food they need to learn and grow and remain attentive through the school day. When we invest in ensuring access to healthy breakfast and lunches through the child nutrition programs, we support the considerable investment in education made by federal, state, and local taxpayers while ensuring that the individual child has the best opportunity to learn.

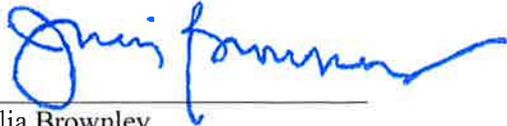
We strongly support providing funding so that schools are able to reduce hunger among low-income students and boost education and health outcomes. By funding these grants, we can allow schools to choose the best options and practices that they believe will work to increase the number of children who start the day with a healthy breakfast.

Again, we urge you to provide \$35 million for grants to help schools remove barriers that keep eligible students from participating in school breakfast.

Sincerely,

John Conyers
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



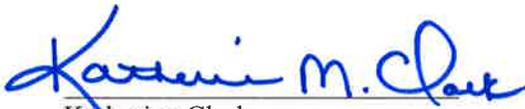
Tony Cárdenas
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Matt Cartwright
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



David N. Cicilline
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Katherine Clark
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Yvette D. Clarke
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Emanuel Cleaver
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Steve Cohen
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Joe Courtney
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Elijah E. Cummings
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Diana DeGette
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Mark DeSaulnier
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Theodore E. Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Keith Ellison
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Elizabeth H. Esty
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Marcia L. Fudge
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

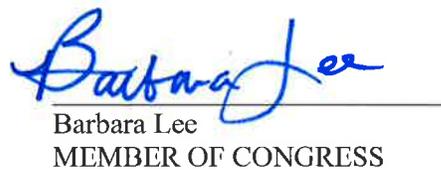

Raúl M. Grijalva
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Jared Huffman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Sheila Jackson Lee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Eddie Bernice Johnson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Ron Kind
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Barbara Lee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Sander M. Levin
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

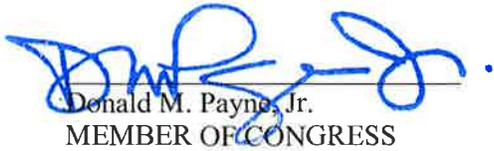

Michelle Luján Grisham
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Sean Patrick Maloney
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


James P. McGovern
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Seth Moulton
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Donald Norcross
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Donald M. Payne, Jr.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Stacey E. Plaskett
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Charles B. Rangel
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Linda T. Sánchez
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Jan Schakowsky
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Adam B. Schiff
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Robert "Bobby" Scott
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Jackie Speier
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Juan Vargas
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Marc Veasey
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Filimon Vela
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Bonnie Watson Coleman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Frederica S. Wilson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


John Yarmuth
MEMBER OF CONGRESS