



# Early Care and Education Consortium

1313 L Street NW, Suite 120, Washington, DC 20005  
Phone (202) 408-9626 [www.ececonsortium.org](http://www.ececonsortium.org)

June 21, 2010

The Honorable George Miller  
Committee on Education and Labor  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller,

The Early Care and Education Consortium (ECEC), the foremost alliance of the nation's leading national, regional and independent providers of high-quality child care and early learning programs thanks you for introducing the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act (H.R. 5504) and for including within it provisions to improve and expand the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). ECEC strongly supports this legislation.

With over three million meals served a day, CACFP helps ensure that low-income children across the country eat healthy snacks and meals in child care centers, family child care homes, and Head Start programs. Currently, CACFP supports two meals and one snack, or two snacks and one meal.

H.R. 5504 includes a proposal for a five-state pilot for an additional meal or snack in CACFP, which would make a tremendous difference in the selected states in the effort to serve children with healthy meals and snacks. This is a crucial provision of the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act that recognizes that millions of children spend significant hours in child care settings while their parents are at work to support their families. CACFP serves healthy meals and snacks to young children at a critical time in their growth and development, as you know, and the proposed pilot expansion is a step in the right direction.

CACFP is a priority for ECEC member child care centers. ECEC members operate nearly 9,000 child care centers enrolling more than 800,000 children in 48 states and the District of Columbia, and know the importance of nutritious meals for the healthy growth and development of young children. Approximately 2,000 ECEC member centers participate in CACFP, serving more than 250,000 children each day in the program.

We look forward to working with the Committee on Education and Labor in the coming weeks to support your efforts to pass the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Eric Karolak, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director*