



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL ON JEWISH POVERTY
ACTS OF CHARITY • DEEDS OF KINDNESS צדקה וגמילות חסדים

June 9, 2010

The Honorable Jared Polis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Polis:

I am pleased to inform you that the Met Council strongly supports legislation you introduced earlier this year, H.R. 4870, the "*Healthy School Meals Act*."

As an organization dedicated to advocating for and serving the needs of the poor, Met Council has grown increasingly concerned over the lack of healthy food choices for children from low-income families. In New York City, financially-strapped schools are often limited in their ability to provide nutritious choices to students in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program (NSLBP). During the school year, students from low-income families rely on the NSLBP for two out of the three meals they eat Monday through Friday. These students should have access to the most nutritious and healthy foods available. Sadly, that is not always the case.

H.R. 4870 will provide schools in New York City and across the country with the ability to receive free of charge, healthy foods and provide students with healthy meal options on the food line. At a modest cost, the "*Healthy School Meals Act*" will go a long way in improving the health and nutrition of our most vulnerable students. I applaud you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation and certainly hope that this legislation will be enacted into law.

By way of background, the Met Council was founded in 1972. It is a not-for-profit organization representing and coordinating the efforts of grass roots Jewish Community Councils and citywide and national Jewish organizations. It is the primary advocate for the needs of the poor, reaching out to the isolated poor and elderly, and increasing public recognition of the extent and nature of poverty among Jews through legislative and social advocacy. Created to alleviate the social, economic, housing, and related problems of the poor, working poor, elderly and recent immigrants in the New York City area, Met Council delivers needed services to thousands every day. Its most important task is to ensure that the hungry are fed, that the weak and frail are cared for, that the homeless are sheltered, and that those who are able to work are helped to find employment.

Thank you again for your leadership.

Every good wish.

Sincerely,

William E. Rapfogel
Chief Executive Officer