



www.nsba.org
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1680 Duke Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314 -3493

June 10, 2014

Member
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: *FY2015 Appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies*

Dear Representative:

The National School Boards Association (NSBA), representing more than 90,000 local school board members across the nation, working with and through our state school boards associations, writes to express support for local school district flexibility and modest regulatory relief for school meal programs in the FY 2015 Appropriations for the Department of Agriculture.

NSBA supports two important measures in the legislation that the House will consider on June 11, 2014:

- NSBA supports the appropriation of \$25 million for school meal equipment grants, which will help schools prepare and serve healthier meals, and improve food safety.
- NSBA also supports a provision requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a process by which a State shall grant a temporary waiver from compliance with national nutrition standards.

The waiver provision offers temporary relief to school districts from some of the federal mandates that have led to soaring operational costs along with other unintended consequences, such as plate waste and reduced participation.

Students need healthy meals and adequate nutrition to achieve their potential in the classroom, and school board members are committed to ensuring all students are prepared to learn. However, school boards cannot ignore the higher costs and operational issues created by mandates in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (PL 111-296).

NSBA looks forward to working with Congress and the Secretary to assure that school districts can successfully comply with the law and also serve the very best meals and provide excellent nutrition to children. Questions regarding our comments may be directed to Lucy Gettman, director, federal programs at 703-838-6763, or via email at lgettman@nsba.org.

Sincerely,

Our Mission
Working with and
Through our State
Associations, NSBA
Advocates for Equity
and Excellence in
Public Education
through School Board
Leadership

Office of Advocacy

Anne M. Byrne
President

Thomas J. Gentzel
Executive Director

Reginald M. Felton
Interim Associate Executive
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas J. Gentzel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Thomas J. Gentzel
Executive Director, NSBA