



Advocates Show Support for Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act Photo Petition Delivered to U.S. House of Representatives

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WASHINGTON, DC—As the House of Representatives prepares to vote on the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (S. 3307), advocates are delivering a photo petition to Congress. The online slideshow compiled by the Community Food Security Coalition and the American Heart Association urges the House to support the bill and send it to President Obama's desk before Congress adjourns.

In support of the legislation, children and adults across the country gathered hundreds of photos, displayed online at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/amheartadvocacy/sets/72157624370190037/>. The petition includes family Thanksgiving photos and handmade signs with messages such as "Please Pass the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act," "Kids + Healthy Food = Better Learning," and "Feed Our Kids, Feed Our Future: Vote Yes on S.3307."

"For months, our members have been telling Congress that the country needs strong child nutrition legislation," said Megan Lott, Associate Policy Director of the Community Food Security Coalition. "Now, in the 11th hour of the 111th Congress, people are showing their support through this photo petition. With one in four children at risk of hunger, and one in three obese or overweight, we can't afford not to act," Lott concluded.

"Congress has the power to help improve the health of our nation's children by passing a strong child nutrition bill that will remove junk foods from schools and strengthen wellness policies," said Robert DiBianco, M.D., AHA spokesperson and cardiologist. "With nearly 22,000 messages from AHA advocates across the nation sent to Congress along with the hundreds of photo petitioners, the message is loud and clear that lawmakers must act now."

Unanimously passed by the Senate, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act will:

- Improve school meals;
- Support farmers through farm to school programs;
- Address skyrocketing obesity rates; and
- Feed more hungry children.

The bill enjoys the support of 1,350 national, state and local organizations (joint letter and list of signatories online at <http://www.hungeractioncenter.org/network/>). In response to concerns that the S.3307 is paid for in part through cuts to food stamps, supporters have received assurances from the White House and Congressional leaders that timely measures will be taken to restore food stamp funding and protect federal nutrition programs from further cuts.

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The Community Food Security Coalition catalyzes food systems that are healthy, sustainable, just, and democratic by building community voice and capacity for change. The coalition's diverse membership includes more than 400 social and economic justice, anti-hunger, environmental, community development, sustainable agriculture, community gardening, and other organizations.