



President Obama Signs Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act Boosts Support for Farm to School Programs

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WASHINGTON, DC—Joined by First Lady Michelle Obama, President Barack Obama today signed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, a centerpiece of the First Lady's Let's Move campaign. At the signing ceremony today, the First Lady noted that, "In the wealthiest nation on Earth, all children should have the basic nutrition they need to learn and grow and to pursue their dreams, because in the end, nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our children."

The Community Food Security Coalition applauds this groundbreaking legislation, which will improve school meals, support farmers through Farm to School programs, address skyrocketing obesity rates, and feed more hungry children. As a co-host of the National Farm to School Network, CFSC has been a staunch advocate of new funding for Farm to School programs.

"We celebrate the innovative investment of tens of millions of dollars in Farm to School programs through the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010," said Marion Kalb, Co-Director of the National Farm to School Network. "By connecting schools with local farmers, this new grants program will strengthen communities, create economic development opportunities, and combat childhood obesity."

"The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 will help secure our nation's future—and President Obama's signature has come not a moment too soon. Today, one in four children in this country are at risk of hunger, and one in three are obese or overweight," said Kathy Mulvey, CFSC Policy Director. "We look forward to working with the Administration, Congressional champions, school districts, farmers, and allied organizations to implement these lifesaving improvements to school food."

Regrettably, the legislation is paid for partly through cuts to SNAP (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). According to the President's statement today, "A number of members of Congress have expressed concerns about this offset being included in the bill, and I'm committed to working with them to restore these funds in the future."

CFSC, its members and allies will continue to press for timely measures to restore SNAP 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.