(Date)

(Address)

The Honorable (Representative/Senator’s First and Last Name)

U.S. House of Representatives OR U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20515 OR Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator/Representative [Last Name]:

As a constituent in [your State or District] and a Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provider/sponsor, operating [name of your institution], it is crucial that our representatives support CACFP initiatives in Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR). The CACFP has been cited both in academic studies and in government reports for the contribution it makes to the well-being of children being cared for in our childcare system.

Key legislation that supports CACFP will:

1) increase the reimbursement and number of meals in child care,

2) simplify and expand eligibility, and

3) streamline and reduce administrative barriers to participation.

As a [provider/sponsor], these initiatives will help me to better serve my community and ensure that more children are nutrition secure. By funding an additional meal or snack in child care, providers will be able to meet the nutritional needs of those in their care for more than eight hours a day. Simplifying and expanding eligibility will increase our ability to combat food insecurity in our most vulnerable population. And, streamlining administrative requirements will allow providers to contribute more time towards serving meals to those in their care and ensuring the quality of their CACFP programs.

Because this program is so important to the constituents in [your state], I want to remind you of the impact of CACFP sponsors and providers. Children and adults that are cared for by CACFP-participating providers benefit from nutritious meals that follow the CACFP meal pattern and ensure proper development. Children in CACFP receive meals that are nutritionally superior to those served to children in comparable child care settings not participating in the CACFP. These children benefit from early nutrition education that helps them establish positive life-long eating habits. Research shows that CACFP reduces food insecurity and plays a vital, clear role in promoting nutrition security.

This program provides over 1.8 billion meals and snacks to over 4.5 million children daily in child care centers, family day care homes, after-school programs, and over 137,000 adults in adult day care. Over 62,000 child care centers and 115,000 family day care providers work with 800 sponsors to use CACFP to provide children with high quality nutrition and learning experiences.

I urge you to support CNR legislation that prioritizes CACFP, which benefits so many children and their families nationwide. We must all work together to assure children receive the nutritious meals they need to grow and eat well for a lifetime.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to witnessing the great work of your office in the future and the contributions you will make towards promoting nutrition security in [your state] and nationwide.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)

(Your Organization)