

August 1, 2014

Congresswoman Susan Davis
1526 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Susan Davis

I am writing on behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children (FFCC), a national bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to making children and their families a priority in federal policy and budget decisions, to thank you for introducing the Stop Child Summer Hunger Act (H.R. 5242).

As you know, during the school year, low-income children have the opportunity to receive free- or reduced-priced meals at school, but millions of these eligible children go without meals during summer breaks. While many local and community groups do a great job of reaching hungry children through the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), in some parts of the country children and families are not able to easily access these sites. Many barriers to participation in the program include unfamiliarity with the program or sites, lack of transportation, and limited food distribution hours. In fact, only about 14 percent of children who participate in free- or reduced-price meals during the school year participate in the SFSP.

Children shouldn't go hungry just because the school year has ended. The Stop Child Summer Hunger Act will go a long way in reducing child hunger during school breaks. This legislation will provide families who have children eligible for free- and reduced-price school meals with an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card. This EBT card will include funds that the family can use to purchase food to replace the meals that the children would otherwise be receiving at school.

USDA's Summer EBT for Children demonstration project, which this legislation is modeled after, has seen very positive results, decreasing hunger among children by about 33 percent. The Stop Child Summer Hunger Act will be an important tool for communities and the federal government to provide food for hungry kids in the summer.

This legislation would help reduce food insecurity by providing parents an effective way to access food for their child. The Stop Child Summer Hunger Act ensures that transportation, weather, or illnesses are not barriers to children receiving nutrition in the summer months. Federal child nutrition programs are vital tools in protecting against hunger and providing balanced diets for our nation's children. We thank you for all that you do on behalf of children and families and appreciate you introducing this legislation.

Sincerely,



Bruce Lesley

President

First Focus Campaign for Children