



# FIRST FOCUS

CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN

March 12, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

I am writing on behalf of the First Focus Campaign for Children (FFCC), regarding the introduction of the Improve Nutrition Program Integrity and Deficit Reduction Act (S. 458). FFCC is a bipartisan organization that advocates directly for legislative change in Congress to ensure that children and families are the priority in federal policy and budget decisions. We are deeply disappointed with this legislation and the proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The SNAP program provides food to over 20 million children and any cut to the SNAP program compromises the ability of low-income families to keep food on the table.

With one in five American children going to bed at night not knowing whether they or a family member will go hungry the next day, we strongly oppose the \$36 billion in cuts to the program through this legislation. Currently millions of families struggle to make ends meet and cuts to SNAP will only make it harder for families to afford a nutritious diet and will further increase the demand on charitable feeding operations. In addition to cuts to benefits, this bill would eliminate the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) which helps low-income Americans make healthy choices on a limited budget so that participants' SNAP dollars can go further. At a time when one in three children are overweight or obese, it is important that Congress doesn't make it harder for low income children to get nutritious food.

Now more than ever, these nutrition programs are a critical resource for vulnerable families and children. These programs are effectively targeted to reach our nation's children and we need to ensure that families have the resources, knowledge, and access to achieve an adequate, nutritious diet for their children. The First Focus Campaign for Children strongly urges Congress to reject cuts to the SNAP program and asks that Members of Congress work towards protecting and strengthening nutrition programs in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Thank you for all of the work that you do on behalf of children and families. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or Meghan McHugh at [meghanm@firstfocus.net](mailto:meghanm@firstfocus.net).

Sincerely,

Bruce Lesley

President