



April 5, 2023

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Bonamici:

On behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal policy and budget decisions, we are writing to voice our thanks and support for the resolution Expressing support for the designation of the third week of March 2023 as "National CACFP Week" (H.Res.225).

Each day, 4.2 million children and 138,000 adults across the country rely on the child and adult caretaker food program (CACFP) for consistent and nutritious snacks and meals. The pandemic challenged the viability of many child day care centers, and upwards of 16,000 could be forced to close their doors permanently. CACFP's innovative approach to connecting these centers with community-based non-profit organizations and state agencies generates economic activity for working communities while ensuring children have access to the care they need.

Additionally, studies show that those who participate in CACFP experience a myriad of benefits, from decreases in the prevalence of overweight and underweight children to a decreased likelihood of hospitalization. The varied and healthy diet provided by this program ensures that our children have the nutrients they need to develop cognitively and physically, particularly in low-income communities. On the whole, the CACFP helps children receive the quality nutrition that they deserve and require for healthy development.

We commend Representative Bonamici for giving this program and our valued caregivers the recognition that they deserve. We look forward to working with you to pass H.Res.225 and further uplift the CACFP.

Sincerely,

Bruce Lesley
President