



*A National Platform for the Child and Adult Care Food Program Community*

May 10, 2016

Dear Congressional Member,

The National CACFP Sponsors Association (NCA) supports the CACFP provisions in Section 108 of Representative Rokita's bill, "Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016" (H.R. 5003), before the House Education and Workforce Committee. The NCA Board and its member organizations, which represent 113,000 family child care providers, and over 62,000 child care centers, Head Start, At-Risk and Afterschool CACFP sponsors and sites across the country, appreciate and wish to thank those who have worked diligently to achieve reforms for the CACFP in this Reauthorization bill.

Following are our comments and concerns regarding CACFP provisions in Section 108:

- We support the provision to extend for-profit eligibility for a four month period. This provision reduces burdensome paperwork for sponsors and independent child care centers.
- We support the provision to offer an annual carry over of 10% administrative funds for sponsoring organizations of unaffiliated child care centers, thus improving the viability of these organizations.
- We support streamlining of the CACFP and SFSP, and appreciate the option for "at risk" afterschool programs to stay on the CACFP all year. Flexibility in these programs is what's needed. In addition this should be a site decision to pick the program of choice and not a State Agency decision to choose an option.
- We support provisions to review the Serious Deficiency process and to differentiate between human error and fraud and abuse. We also support having an option to appeal or review a corrective action placed on a provider or sponsoring organization to ensure the corrective action is appropriate and needed. We however, do not support reporting child care providers to State licensing departments as there may be many unintended consequences for these small businesses. Sponsoring organizations are already mandated under current FNS regulation to report health and safety concerns to the appropriate party.
- This proposal could erode current tools in place which are working to provide program access to participants that may be wary of government inspections. Additionally this provision could easily be misconstrued and have a causal effect of driving child care providers out of the program and the regulatory system. CACFP sponsors act as mentors and educators that provide valuable technical assistance to child care providers to bring them into compliance. Lastly, licensing agencies in each state already have guidelines for determining the quality of childcare.

**FY2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Vicki Lipscomb, President**  
President, Child Nutrition, Inc.  
Charlotte, NC  
704.375.3938  
vicki@cnpinc.org

**Senta Hester, Vice President**  
Founder & Executive Director  
Our Daily Bread of Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN  
865.938.6328  
shester@ourdaillybreadoftn.net

**Kati Wagner, Treasurer**  
President, Wildwood CACFP  
Centennial, CO  
303.730.0460  
kati@wildwoodcacfp.org

**Debra Ghia, Secretary**  
Vice President CACFP  
Lehigh Valley Children's Centers  
Allentown, PA  
610.820.5333  
dghia@lvcconline.org

**Blake Stanford, Immediate Past President**  
President, SW Human  
Development Services  
Austin, TX  
512.467.7916  
blake@swhuman.org

**Gail Birch**  
CEO, Providers Choice  
Minnetonka, MN  
952.345.8110  
gbirch@providerschoice.com

**Rhonda Kobylecky**  
Director of Food Services  
Acelero Learning  
Las Vegas, NV  
702-927-7643  
rkobylecky@acelero.net

**Robin Paul**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mid Michigan Child Care Centers  
Freeland, MI  
800.742.3663  
ceorobin@aol.com

**Sandra Ruballo**  
Executive Director  
Highland Food  
Miami, FL  
305-655-0022  
Sandra@highlandfood.org

**Patrice Siergiey**  
Program Coordinator  
Capstone Community Action  
Barre, VT  
802.477.5173  
psiergiey@capstonevt.org

- Many children are in child care for long hours. We support an additional meal or snack for these children, while not creating undue burdensome paperwork requirements for documentation. Working families need to know that their children are not only cared for, but fed, and we need to ensure these working families have the resources needed for their children while they are away at work. In addition, in most cases, child care is a small business that cannot bear any additional costs. Reinstitute a fourth meal or snack service across all areas of the country as all of our nation's children and families are important.
- We support adding "providers, parents and participants" to the nutrition education provision ensuring State Agency and sponsor funds may be used to educate all.
- We support the continuation of the paperwork reduction work group.

Members of the National CACFP Sponsors Association are set with the task of providing nutrition, education, and alleviating food insecurity. The CACFP is a relatively small program overall, and leverages resources from the private child care industry, thus allowing program dollars to not only meet a growing need yet also boost the economies in the communities served.

We urge Congress to continue improving this program and lessening administrative burden that inhibits CACFP participation.

On behalf of the NCA Board of Directors,



Vicki Lipscomb  
President  
National CACFP Sponsors Association