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Reply to**Department of Federal Affairs**

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August 10, 2015

The Honorable Bob Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 64,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical subspecialists, I write to offer our support for the *Access to Healthy Food for Young Children Act of 2015 (S. 1833)*, legislation that would expand and improve the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). CACFP provides millions of meals and snacks to children in child care, residing in emergency shelters, and participating in afterschool programs.

Today's children and their families are experiencing an unprecedented nutritional crisis resulting from the triple threat of obesity, food insecurity, and malnutrition. Nearly one in three school-age children and adolescents has overweight and obesity, and only half of all children ages 2 to 17 meet federal diet quality standards. Children who are hungry and live in households where food is scarce, one in five U.S. children, have difficulty learning, and are more likely to experience educational, health, and behavioral problems as a result.

Access to healthy food through federal nutrition programs like CACFP is critical to confronting this triple threat of obesity, food insecurity, and malnutrition. S. 1833 contains several provisions to expand access to CACFP and streamline program operations. Notably, the bill would reduce the CACFP area eligibility test from 50 percent to 40 percent and allow child care centers and homes the option of serving a third meal service for children who are in care for eight or more hours, enabling more children to receive the nutritious meals they need to develop and thrive.

The AAP appreciates your commitment to expanding access to CACFP, a program that benefits more than 3.3 million children. We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the health of all our nation's children. If you have any questions feel free to contact Tamar Magarik Haro in our Washington, DC office at tharo@aap.org or 202-347-8600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra G. Hassink, MD, FAAP".

Sandra G. Hassink, MD, FAAP
President