

June 14, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

We are writing in support of S. 2064 the “Fruit and Vegetable Access for Children Act,” that includes a provision to expand the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) to allow schools the option of serving fruits and vegetables whether they are fresh, frozen, canned or dried.

Providing fruits and vegetables at school is critical for fostering healthy development and growth among school-aged children. Expanding the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) to allow the option of frozen, canned, pureed, and dried fruits and vegetables will provide school nutritionists with an affordable and convenient option for serving their students more fruits and vegetables. This expansion of fruits and vegetables will increase the variety of fruits and vegetables schools can offer year-round, and improves the program’s ability to serve more children essential nutrition.

USDA’s *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* recommends that Americans consume more fruits and vegetables, regardless of the form. Allowing the FFVP the option of all forms of fruits and vegetables in school lunches would help meet the USDA’s recommendations, and would help expand the availability to fruits and vegetables in our nation’s schools.

The FFVP does important work by providing educational lessons on the importance of fruits and vegetables in low-income schools. Teaching these children that the fruits and vegetables needed for mental and physical development can come in many different forms, should be an integral part of the program.

As the Senate prepares to consider the Farm Bill, please consider expanding the FFVP so that schools have the option to serve fresh, frozen, pureed, and dried fruits and vegetables in schools.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Council of California
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Frozen Food Institute
American Fruit & Vegetable Processors and
Growers Coalition
Apricot Producers of California
California Canning Peach Association
California Date Commission
California Dried Fruit Coalition
California Dried Plum Board
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Fig Advisory Board

California League of Food Producers
California Strawberry Commission
California Tomato Growers Association
California Walnut Commission
Can Manufacturers Institute
Canned Food Alliance
Corn Refiners Association
Del Monte Foods, Inc.
Lakeside Foods, Inc.
Michigan Farm Bureau
MidAmerica Food Processors Association
Midwest Food Products Association

Minnesota AgriGrowth Council
North American Blueberry Council
Northwest Food Processors Association
Pacific Coast Producers
Pacific Northwest Vegetable Association
Red Gold, Inc.
Seneca Foods Corporation
Sunsweet Growers, Inc.
Sunmaid Growers of California
Texas Food Processors Association

The Beckman & Gast Co.
Valley Fig Growers
Washington Farm Bureau
Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine
Wisconsin Agribusiness Association
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers
Association
Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association