



www.nsba.org  
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June 9, 2015

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Chairman  
Senate Subcommittee on Nutrition,  
Specialty Crops and Agricultural Research  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Angus King  
United States Senator  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Our Mission**  
Working with and  
Through our State  
Associations, NSBA  
Advocates for Equity  
and Excellence in  
Public Education  
through School Board  
Leadership

**Re: *National School Boards Association Support for the Healthy School  
Meals Flexibility Act***

**Office of Advocacy**

**John D. Tuttle**  
President

Dear Chairman Hoeven & Senator King:

**Thomas J. Gentzel**  
Executive Director

The National School Boards Association (NSBA), representing more than 90,000 local school board members across the nation, working with and through our state school boards associations, is pleased to support your bill, S. 1146, the *Healthy School Meals Flexibility Act*.

**Michael C. Zola**  
Associate Executive Director

School board members are deeply committed to fostering a healthy and positive learning environment for children to achieve their full potential. At the same time, NSBA is acutely aware of the operational and financial impact on school districts of regulatory requirements and deadlines established under the authority of the *Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act*. Therefore, NSBA supports the flexibility established by the *Healthy School Meals Flexibility Act* to:

1. Retain the current requirement that 50% of grains offered for lunch and breakfast be whole grain rich rather than further increasing the requirement to 100%, to ameliorate cost and market barriers to implementation.
2. Retain July 1, 2014 Target 1 sodium levels, and prevent regulatory mandates for further reduction of sodium levels for school meals.

The legislation is particularly important in light of the pending reauthorization of PL 111-296 by Congress this year. NSBA urges Congress to restore local leadership and flexibility to federal school meal policies, and to provide sufficient federal resources to school districts in a modernized law.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important issue. We look forward to working with you to support efforts to provide highly nutritious meals to students and provide schools with flexibility to meet local needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Gentzel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Thomas J. Gentzel  
Executive Director, NSBA