



Arkansas Education Association
An NEA State Affiliate

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AEA Applauds Passage of Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. – The Arkansas Education Association (AEA) fully supports the Dec. 2, 2010 passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (S.3307) by the United States House of Representatives. President Barack Obama is expected to sign the bill into law shortly.

"It is so important for the students in Arkansas' public schools to have access to nutritious meals," said AEA President Donna Morey. "Many of our students depend on school food service, which this bill supports, as the primary source of their daily dietary intake. Providing a variety of healthy choices from all the food groups can ensure better physical and mental health development that will positively affect learning."

The National Education Association, AEA's parent organization, lobbied the Lame Duck Congress on the bill, which will help reduce hunger and increase children's access to healthy meals by better connecting eligible children with free school meals. It will also authorize grants to retain summer food program sponsors, improve and expand breakfast programs, and encourage states to develop comprehensive strategies to end child hunger.

The bill will also make progress against childhood obesity and improve the nutritional quality of meals by strengthening nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools, providing schools with increased resources and training to improve meal quality, and supporting farm-to-school programs and school gardens.

Finally, it will provide resources for training and professional development for food service workers. To read more visit NEA.org

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