



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

Docket No. FNS-2011-0029

COMMENTS OF:

Secretary Dan Glickman
Secretary Ann M. Veneman

Bipartisan Policy Center
Prevention Initiative

Lisel Loy
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April 15, 2015

Tina Namian, Branch Chief
Policy and Program Development Division
Child Nutrition Programs, Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Via Federal eRulemaking Portal

Re: Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010; Docket No. FNS-2011-0029

Dear Ms. Namian,

As co-chairs of the Prevention Initiative of the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC), we appreciate this opportunity to comment on the revised meal pattern for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). BPC commends USDA efforts to bring the CACFP meal pattern in line with the Dietary Guidelines.

The emphasis on whole grains, promoting an increased diversity of fruits and vegetables, and the expansion of allowable meat alternatives are all positive changes, as are limitations on juice and added sugar. These improvements are consistent with our 2012 report, [*Lots to Lose: How America's Health and Obesity Crisis Threatens our Economic Future*](#), which called for USDA to ensure that all of its nutrition programs reflect the Dietary Guidelines.

We also support the increased emphasis on breastfeeding. In *Lots to Lose*, we called for all key institutions to support and promote breastfeeding to help increase U.S. breastfeeding rates. Reimbursing child care centers and family child care homes when a mother breastfeeds on site will help to incentivize breastfeeding, which is beneficial for both children and mothers. We applaud USDA for leading by example and hope to see this trend increase nationally.

Lots to Lose also called for 1) USDA to identify and pursue further opportunities to promote health and nutrition through its programs and 2) childcare providers to improve nutrition and physical activity opportunities for preschool-aged children, which we are pleased to see are both happening with this rule through optional best practices. USDA's plan to provide states with information and technical assistance on stricter nutrition standards, age-appropriate physical activity, and other wellness best practices both acknowledges the diversity among child care centers and family child care homes and provides a clear path for providers to improve their practices.

Establishing healthy eating habits in our youngest children is critically important, and with over 1.9 billion meals served annually to children and average daily attendance over 3.5 million,

CACFP plays a major role in this. We applaud USDA's efforts to improve the nutrition standards in CACFP, and we thank you again for the opportunity to provide input during this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Glickman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Secretary Dan Glickman, Co-Chair, Prevention Initiative, Bipartisan Policy Center and former Secretary of Agriculture

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann M. Veneman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Secretary Ann M. Veneman, Co-Chair, Prevention Initiative, Bipartisan Policy Center and former Secretary of Agriculture