

November 29, 2010

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

I urge you and every Member of the House of Representatives to support passage of S. 3307, the “Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act.” It is essential that this important legislation be voted on before the 111th Congress adjourns.

Obesity continues to be one of the fastest growing health issues in our nation and America is spending billions in direct health care costs associated with poor diet and physical inactivity. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention an estimated 17 percent of children and adolescents are obese. Congress can make significant progress against childhood obesity by passing this legislation which will help raise nutritional standards and increase children's access to healthier food.

Passage of S. 3307 will enable more low-income children to have access to reduced-price school meals and would support a program to provide at-risk children with meals after their school day. Failure to pass this bill could result in schools losing essential resources for providing children with nutritious meals. It is essential that Congress act now to maximize the existing national investments in programs to help improve nutrition and move us closer towards a viable, long-term strategy that will reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity.

Partnership is a national non-profit membership organization comprised of leaders in the business community, non-profit organizations and local and state government advancing evidence-based prevention in policies and practices. The organization seeks to create a “prevention culture” in America, where the prevention of disease and the promotion of health, based on the best scientific evidence, is the first priority for policy makers, decision-makers and healthcare practitioners who can make a difference in this area

I hope you will agree that child nutrition is integral to our success in addressing the obesity epidemic. I urge the House of Representatives to passing this much needed legislation (S. 3307) without further delay.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Ripley Forbes, our Director of Government Affairs, at 202-833-0009.

Sincerely,
Robert J. Gould, PhD
President & CEO

PRESIDENT & CEO
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VICE PRESIDENT, POLICY & PROGRAMS
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