



## Let's end childhood hunger now

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How do you feel when you miss lunch? Not so good? Irritable? Upset stomach? No energy? Hard to think? Try going without lunch when you're 7 years old.

In Contra Costa and Solano counties, nearly 85,000 school-age kids are at risk of going hungry this summer.

But thanks to a bill approved by the House Education and Labor committee this month, they won't have to. This legislation would spend \$8 billion during the next 10 years on child-nutrition programs.

The Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act (HR 5504) was passed with bipartisan support and will improve the standards of food served in schools, including vending machines, increase reimbursement rates for schools -- the first increase in more than 30 years -- and expand the national afterschool meals program so more children in afterschool care can have an additional snack or meal.

The bill would also expand the number of low-income children eligible for free or reduced-price meals. All of these improvements will help us reach President Obama's -- and our -- goal of ending childhood hunger by 2015.

We urge residents to contact their representative and senators and ask them to please pass this bill quickly.

This summer, many community organizations and schools offer free lunch to any child, 18 years and younger (through a program that is included in this bill).

Please help us get the word out. Visit [www.foodbankccs.org](http://www.foodbankccs.org) or call 800-870-FOOD

for a location near you.

**Larry Sly, executive director**

**Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano**

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