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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2103

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August 13, 2010

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

We write to express our concerns with two bills that have been recently referred to the House by the Senate. H.R. 1586, funding for Medicaid and education jobs, as well as the Child Nutrition Reauthorization, S. 3307, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, both use improvements made by the ARRA to the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) to pay for the programs included in each passed bill. While we are strong supporters of the programs funded in these bills, we are disappointed that the Senate used SNAP, a safety-net program that literally keeps families from going hungry, to pay for programs to help provide healthcare for low income individuals and to help teachers keep their jobs. As you know, prior to this vote on H.R. 1586, the Democratic majority has provided historic increases in the SNAP program; yet we are now forced to choose between jobs and healthcare or food for hungry people. This is one of the more egregious cases of robbing Peter to pay Paul, and is a vote we do not take lightly.

While we did not oppose the vote on H.R. 1586 because of the critical need for immediate action on state Medicaid funding and education jobs, we respectfully request that the House not consider the Senate version of Child Nutrition Reauthorization, S. 3307 when the House returns for the post-recess session. Instead, we strongly urge the Leadership to schedule H.R. 5504, the Improving Nutrition for America's Children, for floor consideration in September. This bill provides critical improvements in the school and summer meal programs and will help reduce hunger and obesity in children around this country. The House Education and Labor Committee have completed the mark-up on this bill. We recognize that H.R. 5504 must be offset, and we urge you to work with Chairman Levin, Chairman Peterson and other relevant committees during this recess to identify proper offsets so that the House can consider Chairman Miller's bill upon return from recess.

We look forward to working with you on this important bill.

Sincerely,



Jim McGovern
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable George Miller, Chairman, House Education and Labor Committee
The Honorable Sander Levin, Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee
The Honorable Collin Peterson, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee

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