June 10, 2014

Member United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Re: FY2015 Appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies

Dear Representative:

The National School Boards Association (NSBA), representing more than 90,000 local school board members across the nation, working with and through our state school boards associations, writes to express support for local school district flexibility and modest regulatory relief for school meal programs in the FY 2015 Appropriations for the Department of Agriculture.

NSBA supports two important measures in the legislation that the House will consider on June 11, 2014:

- NSBA supports the appropriation of \$25 million for school meal equipment grants, which will help schools prepare and serve healthier meals, and improve food safety.
- NSBA also supports a provision requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a process by which a State shall grant a temporary waiver from compliance with national nutrition standards.

The waiver provision offers temporary relief to school districts from some of the federal mandates that have led to soaring operational costs along with other unintended consequences, such as plate waste and reduced participation.

Students need healthy meals and adequate nutrition to achieve their potential in the classroom, and school

Thomas J. Gentzel

Executive Director, NSBA