

Resolution on the 2016 Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act

WHEREAS, the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee has unanimously passed a bipartisan Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill to replace the 2010 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act and sent it to the Senate; and

WHEREAS since this bill continues the reforms begun in school lunch and child nutrition programs including keeping the requirement that children have a half cup of fruit or vegetables with their meal even while it slows the requirement to reduce salt in children's nutrition programs and reduces the percentage of whole grains required; and

WHEREAS the bill allows children up to their 6th birthday (formerly 5th birthday) to receive food through the WIC program; and

WHEREAS the bill authorizes funding for the following government programs

- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Summer Food Service Program
- Afterschool Snack and Meal Program
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Special Milk Program; and

WHEREAS the authorization for these programs expired last September; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the La Crosse Area Synod, ELCA, in assembly congratulate Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) for working out a compromise bill that has the support of both Republicans and Democrats; and be it further

RESOLVED that the World Hunger Subcommittee of the La Crosse Area Synod communicate to legislators in Wisconsin and Minnesota our concern that this reauthorization take place as soon as possible; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations of the La Crosse Area Synod be encouraged to:

- Hold conversations about child nutrition programs before the beginning of the next school term;
- Involve local stakeholders including school nutritionists and food service directors as well as other school officials;
- Encourage congregational members to advocate with their legislators to enact and implement this act.

Submitted by the World Hunger Subcommittee

(See other side for suggested actions.)

Your World Hunger Subcommittee recommends you and/or your congregation support childhood nutrition locally by any or all of the following activities:

1. **Contact a school board member, or attend a meeting** to inquire about and support the use of meals with improved nutrition.
2. **Celebrate school employees responsible for food services and choices** (district food service directors, school building managers and nutrition planners, cooks and cafeteria workers) . Include them at the time of back pack blessings in the fall, at hunger offerings and in your prayers on Sundays.
3. **Support Farm to School programs.** Search “Wisconsin Farm to School” to find out more about these programs in your district or region.
4. **Look for summer food programs for children** where you live. Are there school or club sponsored breakfast and/or lunch programs? Does anyone have a bag lunch handout? What happens when meal programs close (usually when summer school classes end)? Call your district to ask.
5. **Support or create gardens that can supply fresh food to families, or that include children in planting, care and harvesting.**
6. **Use God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday** on September 11th lift up and support program needs for childhood nutrition.