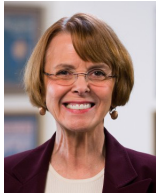


Food Security and Obesity

Good nutrition and exercise in childhood are keys to lifelong healthy growth and development. Currently in Iowa, however, studies show that a significant portion of the child population suffers from food insecurity and even malnutrition. At the same time, childhood obesity rates have skyrocketed. In part due to these threats, for the first time in Iowa's and the country's history, children face the prospect of being less healthy and living less long than their parents. The federal government plays a major role in making food available through Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, but there remain challenges in making healthy food options available for children and their families that can address the twin threats of malnutrition and obesity.

As U.S. Senator, what will you do to improve child nutrition and combat the twin threats of malnutrition and obesity?



CONLIN: This problem needs to be addressed at both home and at school. The federal government must continue to provide SNAP benefits, as those are essential to ensuring

that children have the opportunity to receive nutritious meals. As part of that, we must enable our schools to teach nutrition so that our children are making wise food decisions and understand the effects of their diet on both their physical and mental well-being. Further, it is essential that we examine the foods that are served at school. We cannot serve high calorie, salty, sugary foods in our school cafeterias, especially to underprivileged children on free and reduced lunch. This intake will affect that child's later food decisions, their weight, and their ability to concentrate in the classroom.



GRASSLEY: I am committed to the nutritional needs of our nation's youth. In many cases, the meals received by students through Federal programs are the only healthy, well-balanced

meals they receive daily.

As a Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I supported the 2008 Farm Bill. The Nutrition Title of this new law authorizes important programs which help to ensure our nation's children receive proper nutrition. A child's nutritional health is critical to their learning and development. We need to combat childhood obesity effectively to address this issue. The 2008 Farm Bill expanded the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. This program provides free fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income children in schools and over ten years, \$1 billion will be invested in this initiative.

In the Agriculture Committee, we considered the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act. This bill includes \$4.5 billion in new funding for child nutrition programs. I supported its **(response continued on page 14)**