



December 5, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Granger, and Vice Chairman Shelby:

On behalf of the [Food and Regional Agriculture Member \(FARM\) Policy Committee](#) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), we are writing to ask you to include an extension of the Child Tax Credit, universal school meals, and other measures to reduce childhood poverty and increase food security in any Omnibus Appropriations Bill that Congress may take up before the end of 2022.

As an association of 24 local governments in the metropolitan Washington region, COG strongly supports measures that will increase food security in the region. Federal policies implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that we can provide universal free meals to students and give families the assistance they need to increase food security and improve their economic well-being.

Despite the economic recovery and strong job growth that has occurred, we know that food insecurity rates will remain high for the foreseeable future, as they have following other crises. More is needed to end hunger in our country. To this end, we share the enclosed Resolution passed by COG's Board in support of a pathway to universal school meals and permanent passage of the Federal Child Tax Credit. We urge you to consider both measures.

Although *The Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids Act* does not include universal free meals, it represents steps in the right direction. We are supportive of this proposed legislation as well. As you consider an Omnibus Appropriations Bill, please ensure the aforementioned priorities are included to reduce the preventable, harmful consequences that come with childhood poverty and food insecurity.

Please contact Lindsay Smith, COG's Regional Food Systems Planner, at (202) 962-3309 or lsmith@mwcog.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mary Cheh in black ink.

Mary Cheh
Chair, FARM Committee
District of Columbia

Handwritten signature of Craig Rice in black ink.

Craig Rice
Vice Chair, FARM Committee
Montgomery County, MD

Handwritten signature of Jon Stehle in black ink.

Jon Stehle
Vice Chair, FARM Committee
City of Fairfax, VA

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, The Honorable Patrick Leahy, The Honorable Kay Granger, and The Honorable Richard Shelby:
December 5, 2022

Enc: Certified Resolution R50-2022 - Endorsing the Federal Child Tax Credit and Universal Free School Meals

cc: The Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
The Honorable John Boozman, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor
The Honorable Virginia Foxx Ranking Member, House Committee on Education and Labor
Congressional Delegation for the Metropolitan Washington Region
COG Congressional Delegation