



# FARM TO SCHOOL IN THE HOUSE

On February 26, 2010, Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) introduced H.R. 4710: **The Farm to School Improvements Act of 2010**, a bill requesting \$50 million (over five years) in mandatory funding for farm to school programs.

## TAKE ACTION

Call or Email your Representatives and ask them to co-sponsor H.R. 4710 at 202.225.3121!

[www.farmtoschool.org](http://www.farmtoschool.org)

### WHAT DOES H.R. 4710 DO?

**The Farm to School Improvements Act (H.R. 4710)** would establish a competitive grant and technical assistance program to increase the use of local foods from small and medium sized farms in schools. The legislation would provide \$10 million in mandatory funding each year for the duration of the program and require that grant recipients provide a local match to ensure serious commitment to the project.

This competitive grant program is designed to:

- »» Improve the nutritional health and well being of children;
- »» Support experiential nutrition education activities;
- »» Procure local foods from small and medium-sized farms;
- »» Increase farm income by facilitating farmers' access to institutional markets including schools; and
- »» Develop a sustained commitment to farm to school programs in the community

### WHY FARM TO SCHOOL??



**HEALTH: Kids Win**  
All kids deserve access to nutritious, high quality food. One-third of U.S. children are obese or overweight, and only 2% of children meet the Food Guide Pyramid daily serving recommendations. Schools operating a Farm to School program have shown increases in children's participation in the school meals program and consumption of fruits and vegetables.



**AGRICULTURE: Farmers Win**  
Farm to School supports farming families by increasing market opportunities for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors and food manufacturers. Farm to School programs can open up the expansive school food market, estimated at more than \$12 billion a year to local farmers.



**ECONOMY: Communities Win**  
Farm to School strengthens the community. Farm to School programs create opportunities for developing meaningful community relationships between schools, parents, and local farmers. For every dollar spent on local foods in schools, one to three dollars circulate in the economy.

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

## Directly call your representatives and ask that they cosponsor H.R. 4710

**MAKE A CALL.** You can obtain your Representative's name and direct number by going to [Congress.org](http://Congress.org) and typing in your zip code. Or, you can also call the Capitol Switchboard, provide your Representative's name and be directly connected to their office: 202.225.3121. Once connected to your Representative's office ask to speak to the legislative aide that works on child nutrition.

**THE MESSAGE IS SIMPLE.** "I am a constituent of \_\_\_\_\_ and I am calling to ask him/her to co-sponsor Representative Rush Holt's "Farm to School Improvements Act" (H.R. 4710) which will provide \$50 million in mandatory funding for Farm to School Programs as part of the Child Nutrition Act reauthorization."

## Distribute our action alerts through relevant listservs or to your fellow advocates

### **SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR CHILD NUTRITION ACTION ALERTS.**

Visit [www.foodsecurity.org](http://www.foodsecurity.org) and enter your email address on the main page to receive our policy updates and issue specific action alerts.

## Organize a sign-on letter to your Congressional delegation from groups in your state

**CONTACT US FOR TEMPLATES.** Never underestimate the power you have as a constituent. If you can show that a large contingency of voters in your area support this legislation, the more likely it is that your representative will sign on in support.

## Invite your member on a Farm to School site visit

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CONGRESSIONAL RECESS.** Members love to hear about what's going on in their district, better yet, they need to experience it firsthand! Visit [www.foodsecurity.org/policy\\_CNR\\_F2S](http://www.foodsecurity.org/policy_CNR_F2S) for tips on planning a site visit.

## Write an op-ed or send a letter to the editor

**TELL YOUR STORY.** Contact your local media to share your support for Farm to School. Visit [www.farmtoschool.org/policies](http://www.farmtoschool.org/policies) to find sample language and statistics.



### QUESTIONS?

Contact Megan Lott  
[megan@foodsecurity.org](mailto:megan@foodsecurity.org)  
202.543.8602

[www.farmtoschool.org](http://www.farmtoschool.org)

National Farm to School Network