

Senator Marco Rubio
300 N Hogan St. #8-111
Jacksonville, FL 32202



SUBJ: Support Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Dear Senator Rubio,

Please oppose the \$12 billion in cuts to school breakfast and lunch included in House Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington's (R-TX) proposals for budget reconciliation.

The proposed cuts would dramatically reduce the number of schools able to offer free meals to all their students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and impose significant and burdensome school meal paperwork requirements that would limit access to free and reduced-price school meals in non-CEP schools.

CEP dramatically reduces administrative work for schools by eliminating the need for school food service departments to process school meal forms, and to no longer deal with school meal debt. CEP is a good business practice for schools and improves program delivery. Taking away this important and effective way for local schools to offer breakfast and lunch at no charge to all of their students would increase hunger in the classroom, reintroduce unnecessary paperwork for families and schools, increase school meal debt, and bring stigma back into the cafeteria.

Along with cutting CEP, the proposal would require all families who apply and are approved for free and reduced-price meals at non-CEP schools to document their household income when they submit their school meal application. This would make applying for school meals incredibly complicated for schools and families and cause some children who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals to fall through the cracks.

Ensuring that students are well-fed is part of safeguarding the health and well-being of our country's children, which is essential to our national security. Please strongly oppose any efforts to weaken the School Meal Programs.

Respectfully,
Emma Becker

DIETETIC INTERN, KING'S COLLEGE
NASSAU COUNTY FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES