

June 5, 2008

Dear Colleague,

Congress is scheduled to reauthorize the Child Nutrition Programs and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) in FY2009. The reauthorization bill will include WIC, National School Lunch, School Breakfast Program, Summer Food Service, Child and Adult Care Food, and the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs. In anticipation of the reauthorization, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is gathering information to help clarify the needs and concerns of our Program cooperators, participants, and partners at the State and local levels. I am pleased to invite you to participate in this information-gathering process.

The listening session for this region will take place in Baltimore, Maryland on August 6, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Enoch Pratt free Library, Wheeler Auditorium, 400 Cathedral Street.

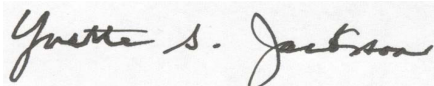
All comments presented at the listening session will be considered during the reauthorization process. We ask you to please provide a written copy of your comments. Attendees may choose to focus on, but need not be limited to, issues within the following three themes:

1. Strengthening Program management and improving nutrition;
2. Ensuring all eligible people have access to program benefits; and
3. Advancing technology and innovation.

If you decide to attend, please fax the attached form to (609) 259-5185 or e-mail to pa-marco@fns.usda.gov by July 23rd. RSVP is required for participation. The session will be divided into Child Nutrition and WIC and speakers will be limited to **summarizing their comments in three minutes** and assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. An agenda is attached to help you plan your day.

If you are unable to attend, you may submit comments and recommendations directly to www.regulations.gov. FNS published a Federal Register notice to solicit comments and include the opportunity to submit them by October 15, 2008. For more information please visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/Sessions/default.htm>.

If you have any questions please contact Margarita Maisterrena, Public Affairs Director, at pa-marco@fns.usda.gov or 609-259-5091. Thank you for your consideration and for the important role you play in making a positive difference in the health and nutrition of our Nation.



Yvette S. Jackson
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Mid-Atlantic Region