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June 7, 2019

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million members they teach, nurture, and support, I urge you to co-sponsor H.R. 2651, the bipartisan Improving Training for School Food Service Workers Act. Attached is the “Dear Colleague” letter from Reps. Pocan and Katko, co-sponsors of the bill, requesting your co-sponsorship. If you are already a co-sponsor, thank you for adding your name to this important legislation.

Food service workers are vital members of the school community; the meals they plan, prepare, and serve fuel students for learning. The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFK) established professional standards for these workers in recognition of the additional training and professional development they require as schools move toward providing increasingly healthy meals.

The Improving Training for School Food Service Workers Act builds on HHFK by:

- ensuring that most professional development be held during work hours;
- requiring workers to be informed in advance of and compensated for attending sessions that occur outside of those hours; and
- ensuring that workers will not be penalized if they cannot attend training sessions that occur outside work hours.

These measures are crucial to food service workers, who often work two or three jobs to earn a decent living, or have family responsibilities that make it difficult or even impossible to attend trainings outside of work hours.

I hope you will consider Reps. Pocan and Katko’s request to co-sponsor the Improving Training for School Food Service Workers Act and join your colleagues who have already endorsed it.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association