



Greater Chicago Food Depository  
4100 West Ann Lurie Place, Chicago, Illinois 60632

773-247-3663 phone  
773-247-4232 fax  
[www.chicagosfoodbank.org](http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org)

*Providing food for hungry people while  
striving to end hunger in our community*

October 5, 2012

Kevin Concannon  
Under Secretary  
Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Under Secretary Concannon,

The Greater Chicago Food Depository fully supports the USDA nutrition standards for federally reimbursed school lunch. These standards help ensure that children have access to healthy, nutritious food each school day. This access is particularly important for children who are eligible for free or reduced lunch. These children, as well as their families, are facing high levels of food insecurity. Food insecurity is not only a reflection of the lack of access to food overall, but also the lack of access to nutrient-rich food. It is critical that we provide opportunities for vulnerable children to have access to this quality of food so that they can fully participate in the learning process and have real opportunity in the future.

The Food Depository opposes attempts to adjust these standards. School meal programs play an important role in improving the health of low-income children. Concerns about the lower caloric intake are unfounded, as children who are still hungry after their initial helpings of food are able to get seconds for fruit and vegetables, both addressing their hunger but also their nutrient needs. Not only would a shift away from these standards impact the quality of the meal children are receiving each day at school, it would also undermine efforts to encourage better eating habits, when possible, outside of the school setting.

The Food Depository sees hunger every day. We actively work to ensure we are not only meeting the hunger needs of families facing food insecurity, but also providing them with the healthiest food possible. We stand with the USDA in their efforts to ensure low-income children get the healthy food they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Maehr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kate R. Maehr  
Executive Director & CEO