H. R. 4333

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the health and well-being of school children, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 16, 2009

Mr. Farr (for himself, Mr. Putnam, Ms. Richardson, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Kagen, Mr. Michaud, Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Mr. Hinchey, Ms. Matsui, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Moran of Virginia, Mr. Costa, Mr. Serrano, Mr. Courtney, Ms. Hirono, and Mrs. Capps) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the health and well-being of school children, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Children's Fruit and
- 5 Vegetable Act of 2009".

1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

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- (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
- 3 (1) Children eat less than half of the daily 4 fruits and vegetables recommended for good health 5 by the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. To 6 meet those guidelines designed to promote the health 7 of children and to lower their risks of chronic dis-8 ease and obesity, children need to double their fruit 9 and vegetable intake. According to the background 10 and purpose of those guidelines many specific dis-11 ease and conditions are linked to poor diet and that 12 nutrient supplements cannot replace a healthful diet. The report notes that "an array of evidence points 13 to beneficial health effects" from the increased in-14 15 take of fruits and vegetables.
 - (2) Published analysis of the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans notes that increased intakes of fruit, vegetables, are likely to have important health benefits for most Americans. For this reason, the Secretary of Agriculture should engage in effective marketing, communications, and training focused on sharing best practices that result in school children eating more fruits and vegetables.
 - (3) Schools participating in the national school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751

et seq.) or the school breakfast program established under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771, et seq.) are required to serve meals that are consistent with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans published under section 301 of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5341). However, Nutrition Standards and Meal Requirements for the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast

Program, have not been updated since 1995.

- (4) Most schools participating in school meal programs currently serve meals that contain fewer fruits and vegetables than recommended by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans published in 2005 under section 301 of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5341).
- (5) The Institute of Medicine's publication entitled School Meals: Building Blocks for Healthy Children Report (October 20, 2009), recommends that (1) the amount of fruit served in school breakfast be doubled to one cup, and (2) the amount of fruits and vegetables in school lunch be doubled to one cup of fruit and one cup of vegetables every day, and that the variety of vegetables served be increased,

- emphasizing dark green and orange vegetables. The Institute of Medicine's recommendations will align the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans published in 2005 under section 301 of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5341) and promote children's health. The In-stitute of Medicine's report also recognizes that im-proving the quality of school meals, such as adding more fruits and vegetables, will require additional cafeteria equipment, such as refrigeration, salad bar, and fruit and vegetable bars.
 - (6) An important goal of the Federal school lunch and breakfast programs should include improving the eating habits of children so they can meet recommendations set forth in the most recent version of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
 - (7) According to a University of California-Los Angeles School of Public Health study published in 2007 (Public Health Nutrition 10:1490–1496) by Dr. Wendelin Slusser, M.D., et al. and later confirmed by additional research presented by Dr. Havinder Sareen, PhD, MPH to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in February 2009, children who have access to salad bars or fruit and

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vegetable bars in their school cafeteria eat more fruits and vegetables.

(8) According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture only approximately 3 percent of fruits and vegetables purchased for the school lunch program through the Agricultural Marketing Services commodity purchase program are fresh. The Secretary of Agriculture is piloting a fresh-cut sliced apple program to test the feasibility of purchasing, under authority of section 32 of Public Law 74–320, as amended (7 U.S.C. 612c), a wide variety of freshcut fruits and vegetables for school meal programs. According to the Agricultural Marketing Service press release from September 17, 2009, the freshcut sliced apple pilot program is a tremendous achievement and is extraordinarily popular with schools. The Secretary plans to expand the fresh-cut apple program and pilot test a baby carrot program during the Fall of 2009.

(9) The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) (Public Law 111–5) provided a one time investment of \$100 million for equipment assistance to school food authorities participating in the National School Lunch Program. This is the first Federal infrastructure investment for cafeteria

- 1 equipment in 25 years. Total requests from schools
- 2 for cafeteria equipment through the ARRA exceeded
- 3 \$650 million indicating a strong unmet need for
- Federal support to help schools for equipment that
- 5 lends itself to improving the quality of school food
- 6 service meals that meet the Dietary Guidelines.
- 7 (10) The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program 8 established under Section 19 of the Richard B. Rus-9 sell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769a, et 10 seq.) has demonstrated successfully that children 11 like fresh fruits and vegetables and will increase 12 their consumption when a variety of high quality
- fresh fruits and vegetables are available to them in
- school.
- 15 (11) Policy initiatives, such as the Fresh Fruits
- and Vegetable Program, which are designed to im-
- prove the school food environment and children's
- eating habits, should be reinforced with training and
- technical assistance for schools to improve program
- effectiveness.
- 21 (b) Purpose.—The purpose of this Act is to estab-
- 22 lish a national strategy to improve the nutritional quality
- 23 of school meals served by schools participating in the
- 24 school lunch program established under the Richard B.
- 25 Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et

1	seq.) or the school breakfast program established under
2	established under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
3	U.S.C. 1771 et seq.) by increasing access to and consump-
4	tion of fruits and vegetables by children enrolled in the
5	schools through—
6	(1) the promotion of the use of salad bars, or
7	fruit and vegetable bars, as a strategy to increase
8	children's fruit and vegetable consumption;
9	(2) the expansion of the amount of fruits and
10	vegetables purchased by the Secretary of Agriculture
11	for use in school meals, emphasizing fruits and vege-
12	tables that are popular with students;
13	(3) effective training and technical assistance
14	emphasizing best practices, that will—
15	(A) improve the implementation of the
16	Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program under sec-
17	tion 19 of the Richard B. Russell National
18	School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769a); and
19	(B) increase the availability and consump-
20	tion of fruits and vegetables in school meals;
21	(4) infrastructure investment for purchasing
22	cafeteria equipment specifically targeted for increas-
23	ing access to fruits and vegetables and improve the
24	quality of school food service meals that meet the

most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans pub-

1	lished under section 301 of the National Nutrition
2	Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (7
3	U.S.C. 5341); and
4	(5) improving the quality of school meals.
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	SEC. 3. DEFINITION.
6	In this Act, the term "Secretary" means the Sec-
7	retary of Agriculture.
8	SEC. 4. INCREASING ACCESS TO FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
9	IN SCHOOL CAFETERIAS.
10	Section 18 of the Richard B. Russell National School
11	Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769) is amended by adding at the
12	end the following—
13	"(j) Establishing Salad Bars and Fruit and
14	VEGETABLE BARS.—
15	"(1) Marketing and communications
16	PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of en-
17	actment of the Children's Fruit and Vegetable Act
18	of 2009, the Secretary shall establish and implement
19	a plan to promote the use of salad bars or fruit and
20	vegetable bars in schools participating in the school
21	lunch program established under this Act.
22	"(2) Training and technical assistance.—
23	"(A) In General.—In carrying out the
24	plan described in paragraph (1), the Secretary
25	shall provide training and technical assistance

to State educational agencies and schools on how to offer salad bars or fruit and vegetable bars.

"(B) Comprehensive Guidance.—In providing the training and technical assistance described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary may use relevant guidance provided in the publication of the Secretary entitled Fruits and Vegetables Galore: Helping Kids Eat More (2004).

"(3) Infrastructure investment.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the plan described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall develop a program to provide grants to State educational agencies to encourage schools in such agencies to purchase equipment and modify facilities for the purpose of setting up and operating salad bars or fruit and vegetable bars.

"(B) ALLOCATION TO STATE EDU-CATIONAL AGENCIES.—The Secretary shall allocate funds to each State educational agency in accordance with a formula developed by the Secretary, which shall provide for reallocation

1	of unused funds after the end of each fiscal
2	year.
3	"(C) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant
4	under this subsection, a State educational agen-
5	cy shall submit to the Secretary an application
6	at such time, in such manner, and containing
7	such information as the Secretary may require.
8	"(D) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY RE-
9	QUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—Each State edu-
10	cational agency receiving a grant under this
11	subsection shall use the grant funds to—
12	"(i) award schools in such State edu-
13	cational agency a one-time payment equal
14	to the anticipated cost of setting up and
15	operating a salad bar or fruit and vege-
16	table bar, or \$7,500, whichever is less; and
17	"(ii) shall impose appropriate audit
18	and reporting requirements, and other pro-
19	cedures to ensure that funds provided to
20	schools by the agency under this subsection
21	have been properly used and shall recover
22	unused funds, as appropriate.
23	"(4) Evaluation and report.—Not later
24	than 18 months following the establishment and exe-
25	cution of the plan described in paragraph (1), the

Secretary shall prepare and submit a report to the
Committee on Education and Labor, the Committee
on Agriculture, and the Committee on Appropriations, of the House of Representatives, and the
Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, of the Senate,
which describes—

"(A) how the plan has been executed; and

"(B) the number of schools that have new salad bars or fruit and vegetable bars as a result of such plan.

"(5) Mandatory spending.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Out of the funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of Treasury shall provide to the Secretary of Agriculture by October 15 of each of fiscal years 2011 through 2012 the amount of \$10,000,000 and the Secretary of Agriculture shall accept and use such funds to implement this subsection.

"(B) Additional authorization of appropriated, in addition to the mandatory funding under subparagraph (A) for each of the fiscal years listed in such subparagraph, such

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1	sums as are necessary to carry out this sub-
2	section, to remain available until expended.".
3	SEC. 5. IDENTIFYING AND REMOVING BARRIERS TO THE
4	PURCHASE OF PERISHABLE FRUITS AND
5	VEGETABLES.
6	(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the
7	date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
8	tablish and implement a plan to identify and remove bar-
9	riers to facilitate the equitable purchase of fruits and vege-
10	tables within the procurement and distribution systems
11	administered by Secretary, acting through the Agricul-
12	tural Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture.
13	The plan shall seek to identify and remove barriers to the
14	equitable purchase of fruits and vegetables at all levels of
15	the procurement and distribution systems, including any
16	barriers related to the initial surveys, bidding, transpor-
17	tation, handling, storage, and delivery to schools.
18	(b) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Not later than 1
19	year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
20	retary shall evaluate and report to the appropriate com-
21	mittees of Congress recommendations to reduce or elimi-
22	nate the barriers identified pursuant to subsection (a).

1	SEC. 6. BEST PRACTICES TO IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS OF
2	FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM.
3	Section 19(i)(6)(A) of the Richard B. Russell Na-
4	tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769a) is amended
5	to read as follows:
6	"(A) In General.—Of funds made avail-
7	able to carry out this section for a fiscal year,
8	the Secretary may use not more than \$500,000
9	for administrative costs of carrying out this
10	program, including national and regional train-
11	ing conferences emphasizing sharing best prac-
12	tices, and providing technical assistance. Such
13	training programs may also include strategies
14	and best practices for increasing access to fresh
15	fruits and vegetables in other school meals pro-
16	grams.".
17	SEC. 7. IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SCHOOL MEALS
18	THROUGH RULEMAKING.
19	Not later than 24 months after the date of receiving
20	the review initiated by the National Academy of Sciences,
21	Institute of Medicine in February 2008 of the National
22	School Lunch and School Breakfast Program Meal Pat-
23	terns and Nutrient Standards authorized under the Rich-
24	ard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
25	1751), the Secretary shall promulgate a final rule updat-
26	ing the nutrition standards and meal requirements for

- 1 school meal programs in a manner consistent with the
- 2 findings of such review.

3 SEC. 8. EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

- 4 (a) Program Authorized.—From the amount ap-
- 5 propriated under subsection (e), the Secretary shall pro-
- 6 vide funds to States, according to the allocation formula
- 7 described in subsection (b), for the purpose of awarding
- 8 grants, on a competitive basis, to school food authorities
- 9 to provide equipment assistance to schools participating
- 10 in the school lunch program established under the Richard
- 11 B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751
- 12 et seq.).
- 13 (b) Allocation Formula.—
- 14 (1) In General.—From the amount appro-
- priated under subsection (e), the Secretary shall al-
- locate funds to States in a manner proportional with
- each State's administrative expense allocation under
- section 7(a)(2) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966
- 19 (42 U.S.C. 1776(a)(2)).
- 20 (2) Reallocation.—If a State does not re-
- 21 ceive funds under this subsection, the Secretary shall
- reallocate such funds to other States in amounts the
- 23 Secretary determines necessary.
- 24 (c) Applications.—

- 1 (1) STATES.—To qualify to receive an alloca-2 tion of funds under this section, a State shall submit 3 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such 4 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-5 retary may require.
- 6 (2) School food authorities.—To qualify 7 to receive a grant under this section, a school food 8 authority shall submit an application to the applica-9 ble State at such time, in such manner, and con-10 taining such information as the State may require. 11 Such application shall demonstrate to the State that 12 such school food authority serves schools that have 13 a need for equipment assistance.
- (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, a State shall give priority to school food authorities that have, under the jurisdiction of such authorities, schools in which not less than 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced price lunches under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).
- 21 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS AND AP-22 PROPRIATION.—Out of any moneys in the Treasury not 23 otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury 24 shall provide to the Secretary \$100,000,000 to carry out 25 this section, to remain available until expended.

- 1 (f) Definition.—In this section, the term "equip-
- 2 ment" means any equipment needed to prepare, process,
- 3 and store food for the school lunch program established
- 4 under this Act.

5 SEC. 9. FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

- 6 (a) AMENDMENT.—The Richard B. Russell National
- 7 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) is amended
- 8 by inserting after section 19, the following:

9 "SEC. 19A. FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM.

- 10 "(a) In General.—From the amount appropriated
- 11 under subsection (h), the Secretary shall carry out a pro-
- 12 gram provide assistance, through competitive matching
- 13 grants and technical assistance, to schools and nonprofit
- 14 entities to carry out farm-to-school programs that improve
- 15 access to local foods in schools and institutions partici-
- 16 pating in programs under this Act and section 4 of the
- 17 Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) through
- 18 farm to school activities, including the purchase of local
- 19 food, establishment of effective relationships between
- 20 school and institutional food service providers, distribu-
- 21 tors, and producers or groups of producers, school gar-
- 22 dens, appropriate equipment, and the provision of training
- 23 and education.
- 24 "(b) Purposes of Farm-to-School Programs.—
- 25 Farm-to-school programs are designed to—

1	"(1) improve the nutritional health and well
2	being of children;
3	"(2) procure healthy local foods from small and
4	medium-sized farms for meals at eligible schools and
5	institutions;
6	"(3) support experiential nutrition education
7	activities and curriculum planning that incorporates
8	the participation of school children in farm and gar-
9	den-based agricultural education activities;
10	"(4) develop a sustained commitment to farm
11	to school projects in the community by linking
12	schools and institutions, State and local agencies in-
13	cluding Indian Tribal Organizations, institutions of
14	higher education, agricultural producers, parents,
15	community garden groups and other community
16	stakeholders; and
17	"(5) increase farm income by facilitating farm-
18	ers' access to institutional markets including schools.
19	"(c) Grants.—
20	"(1) Competitive basis.—A grant under this
21	section shall be awarded on a competitive basis.
22	"(2) Types of grants.—A grant under this
23	section may be—

1	"(A) an implementation grant to support
2	the cost of implementing a farm-to-school pro-
3	gram;
4	"(B) a training and technical assistance
5	grant to provide the training, operational sup-
6	port, information, and access to resources nec-
7	essary to implement a success farm-to-school
8	program; or
9	"(C) a planning grant to support the cost
10	of conducting research, identifying resources,
11	and developing partnerships to design a suc-
12	cessful and sustainable farm-to-school program.
13	"(3) Amount.—The total amount provided
14	under this section to a grant recipient shall not ex-
15	ceed—
16	"(A) in the case of an implementation or
17	training and technical assistance grant,
18	\$100,000; and
19	"(B) in the case of a planning grant,
20	\$25,000.
21	"(4) Term.—A grant under this section may
22	not be awarded for a period of more than—
23	"(A) in the case of an implementation or
24	training and technical assistance grant, 2 years;
25	and

1	"(B) in the case of a planning grant, 1
2	year.
3	"(5) Cost share.—
4	"(A) In general.—The amount of a
5	grant made under this section shall not exceed
6	75 percent of the cost of—
7	"(i) in the case of an implementation
8	grant, implementing a farm-to-school pro-
9	gram;
10	"(ii) in the case of a training and
11	technical assistance grant, providing the
12	training, operational support, information,
13	and access to resources necessary to imple-
14	ment a success farm-to-school program;
15	and
16	"(iii) in the case of a planning grant,
17	conducting research, identifying resources
18	and developing partnerships to design a
19	successful and sustainable farm-to-school
20	program.
21	"(B) Non-federal support.—A grant
22	recipient under this section shall be required to
23	provide not more than 25 percent of the cost of
24	the applicable activities described in subpara-
25	graph (A) in the form of cash or in-kind con-

1	tributions (including facilities, equipment, train-
2	ing, or services provided by State and local gov-
3	ernments and private sources).
4	"(d) EVALUATION.—An grant recipient under this
5	section shall agree to cooperate in an evaluation carried
6	out by the Secretary.
7	"(e) Regional Balance.—In making awards and
8	providing technical assistance under this section, the Sec-
9	retary shall to the maximum extent practicable, ensure—
10	"(1) geographical diversity; and
11	"(2) equitable treatment of urban, rural, and
12	tribal communities.
13	"(f) Technical Assistance.—
14	"(1) Technical assistance by secretary.—
15	The Secretary shall provide grant recipients tech-
16	nical assistance and information to further the pur-
17	poses of this section.
18	"(2) Training and technical assistance
19	GRANTS.—
20	"(A) In general.—In the case of a re-
21	cipient of a training and technical assistance
22	grant under this section, the recipient shall use
23	the funds available under the grant to provide
24	training and technical assistance to an entity,
25	including an institution of higher education

1	that desires to implement a farm-to-school pro-
2	gram.
3	"(B) Training and technical assist-
4	ANCE ACTIVITIES.—The training and technical
5	assistance shall—
6	"(i) be provided under such terms as
7	the Secretary may require; and
8	"(ii) include providing the training,
9	operational support, information, and ac-
10	cess to resources necessary to implement a
11	success farm-to-school program.
12	"(g) Proposals.—
13	"(1) REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS.—An ap-
14	plicant that desires to receive a grant under this sec-
15	tion shall submit to the Secretary a proposal at such
16	time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
17	tion as the Secretary may require.
18	"(2) Proposal review criteria.—In making
19	awards under this subsection, the Secretary shall
20	form review panels described in paragraph (3) to
21	evaluate proposals submitted pursuant to paragraph
22	(1) based on the extent to which the proposed pro-
23	gram—
24	"(A) makes local food products available
25	on the menu of the school or institution;

1	"(B) benefits local small and medium-sized
2	farms;
3	"(C) incorporates experiential nutrition
4	education;
5	"(D) serves schools and eligible institutions
6	with a high proportion of children who are eligi-
7	ble for free and reduced price lunches;
8	"(E) demonstrates collaboration between
9	schools or institutions, non-governmental and
10	community-based organizations, farmer groups
11	and other community partners;
12	"(F) demonstrates the potential for long-
13	term program sustainability;
14	"(G) includes adequate and participatory
15	evaluation plans; and
16	"(H) meets such other related criteria as
17	the Secretary may determine relevant.
18	"(3) Competitive Award Selection.—In
19	forming review panels to evaluate proposals sub-
20	mitted pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary
21	shall include—
22	"(A) representatives of schools and eligible
23	institutions;
24	"(B) registered dietitians;

1	"(C) operators of small and medium-sized
2	farms;
3	"(D) public agencies;
4	"(E) non-governmental and community-
5	based organizations with expertise in local food
6	systems and farm to school programs; and
7	"(F) other appropriate parties as deter-
8	mined by the Secretary.
9	"(h) Funding.—Beginning on October 1, 2010, out
10	of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
11	the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Sec-
12	retary of Agriculture to carry out this subsection
13	\$10,000,000 each fiscal year, to remain available until ex-
14	pended.
15	"(i) Definition.—For purposes of this section, the
16	term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning
17	given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education
18	Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).".
19	(b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 18 of the
20	Richard B. National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769)
21	is amended by repealing subsection (g).

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