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Adam Morgan  
Advocacy Coordinator  
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank  
Written Testimony for “Food in Education” hearing  
Pennsylvania Senate Education Committee

Chairman Langerholc, Minority Chair Dinniman, members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for inviting us here today to speak about the issue of food insecurity and education. I am Adam Morgan the Advocacy Coordinator for Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Food insecurity causes a chain reaction of negative impacts. Hungry children are nearly three times as likely to suffer from poor health and 1.6 times more likely to miss days of school. They are two times more likely to repeat a grade, two times more likely to suffer from ADHD, two times more likely to require special education, and three times more likely to be suspended from school. To put simply, access to nutritious and healthy food is essential for the development and education of our children. It is the foundation on which we all build our lives.

There are several federal food assistance programs that specifically address hunger in our schools. They include the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Feeding Program (includes Afterschool Meals), and the Summer Food Service Program. These programs helped feed nearly 51.6 million children by providing them more than 9.4 billion meals across the country in 2018. In Pennsylvania alone, nearly 1.7 million children were provided more than 308 million meals in 2018.

These programs and others are authorized by Congress through the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act in order to ensure that low income children have access to healthy foods. These programs help improve educational achievement, economic security, nutrition, and health.

These federal child nutrition programs help feed the more than 11 million food insecure children in our country, but they also attract children to out-of-school programs and ensure that kids are well fed, active, and engaged in enrichment activities while their parents are at work. Afterschool and summer programs often provide academic and physical activities for students, nutrition education, mentoring, and offer adult supervision and a safe place for children.

Through the reauthorization process, Congress will have the ability to ensure that these essential child nutrition programs are protected and strengthened. When Congress takes action on these issues in the fall, we ask you to be advocates to your colleagues in Washington on our behalf. There are several members of the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation on the

committees responsible for the reauthorization of these programs. We ask you to help us ensure that all members understand the sheer importance of these child nutrition programs.

While these programs are vitally important to our work of feeding children, it is important to remember that the program that feeds the most children in the country is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. Approximately 20 million children in this country live in households that receive SNAP benefits. Furthermore, SNAP helps feed children in schools; students coming from SNAP households are automatically eligible for free or reduced meals in school. This is especially pertinent as today is the deadline for public comments to be submitted on USDA's proposed rule change that would take SNAP benefits away from the households where 500,000 children reside.

Thank you again Chairman Langerholc, Minority Chair Dinniman, and members of the Senate Education Committee for your time and inviting us here today to speak about child nutrition in our schools.

### CNR Background

Although most of the programs are permanently authorized, every five years, Congress reviews the laws governing these programs through the reauthorization process. The current law – the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-296) – expired on September 30, 2015. Congress includes the funding levels to maintain the programs through the annual appropriations process, and this process allows the child nutrition programs that are not permanently authorized, such as the Summer Food Service Program, to continue operations when a reauthorization is delayed. Current funding has been provided through annual appropriations.

The reauthorization amends two existing statutes: the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry S. Truman in 1946, created the National School Lunch Program “as a measure of national security, to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation’s children.” Twenty years later, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 into law, which established and authorized the School Breakfast Program. Not long after, programs such as the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and other child nutrition programs were added to the National School Lunch Act.

### Programs up for review in CNR:

- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (which includes the Afterschool Meal Program)
- Summer Food Service Program
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

- WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Special Milk Program

Congressional Committees responsible for CNR:

- House Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services
  - PA Members
    - Rep. Glenn Thompson (only PA member in Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services)
    - Rep. Dan Meuser
    - Rep. Lloyd Smucker
    - Rep. Fred Keller
    - Rep. Susan Wild
- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Subcommittee on Nutrition, Agriculture Research, and Specialty Crops
  - PA Members
    - Senator Bob Casey Jr. (Ranking Member)

	United States			Pennsylvania		
	Participants	Meals	Funding	Participants	Meals	Funding
National School Lunch Program	29,600,000	4,864,700,000	\$ 13,800,000,000	1,017,663	168,224,453	\$ 450,698,475
School Breakfast Program	14,680,000	2,421,900,000	\$ 4,395,232,240	406,538	67,904,643	\$ 125,462,558
Child and Adult Care Food Program	4,629,000	2,041,000,000	\$ 3,622,500,000	156,001	67,286,794	\$ 118,598,593
Summer Food Service Program	2,688,000	146,000,000	\$ 473,900,000	109,058	4,692,801	\$ 12,422,351
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children	6,870,000		\$ 5,433,600,000	218,188		\$ 114,729,546
WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program	1,727,234		\$ 22,950,512	166,069		\$ 2,062,427.00
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program			\$193,500,000			\$ 5,607,608.00
Special Milk Program		37,900,000 (half pints of milk)	\$ 7,900,000		1,300,148 (half pints of milk)	