

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

- WHEREAS**, the National School Lunch Program operates in more than 100,000 schools and child care facilities;
- WHEREAS**, it provided lunches for more than 30.5 million children each day in 2007;
- WHEREAS**, commodity foods, though they comprise 20 percent of the school meal, often set the tone of the meal or is the centerpiece of school lunches;
- WHEREAS**, more than 50 percent of the commodity foods nationally are sent to processors before they reach schools, processing that often involves adding salt, fat or sugar;
- WHEREAS**, the USDA provides school districts with more than 180 different food items each year with a value of about \$1 billion, making it the largest single source of food for schools;
- WHEREAS**, fewer than one-third of public schools in the 2004-05 school year offered and served lunches that met the USDA standards for total fat (no more than 30 percent of calories) or saturated fat (less than 10 percent of calories);
- WHEREAS**, no schools during the 2004-05 school year met the sodium standards put forth by the School Meals Initiative;
- WHEREAS**, nearly two-thirds of the students participating in the school lunch program are from low-income families, which means they are at a higher risk of becoming either overweight or obese;
- BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that The Council of State Governments encourages Congress to align the School Meal Initiative Standards with current Dietary Guidelines for Americans, urges states to work with their U.S. senators and representatives to ensure that schools are meeting those guidelines, and urges state legislators to work with their Departments of Education to ensure local school districts are meeting the nutritional standards already in place.

Adopted this 6th day of December, 2008 at the CSG 75th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting in Omaha, Nebraska.



Governor M. Jodi Rell
2008 CSG President



Rep. Kim Koppelman
2008 CSG Chair