

# SOUTH CAROLINA PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

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October 10, 2014

The Honorable Barry Bolen, Chairman  
South Carolina State Board of Education  
133 Congaree Park Drive  
West Columbia, South Carolina 29169

Re: Clarification regarding the SCPTA's support of the Healthy Hungry-Free Kids Act

Dear Chairman Bolen and Members of the S.C. State Board of Education,

Please allow this letter to clarify the SCPTA's position on the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act Smart Snacks in School legislation. While the SCPTA supports the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards and the requirement that food and beverage items sold to students in our public schools contain at least the minimum nutritional value as determined by the USDA, the USDA guidelines specifically grant to states reasonable flexibility to provide exemptions to these nutrition standards for fundraising.

Although SCPTA is a child advocacy association first and foremost, fundraising is a reality for most PTAs. PTAs raise money to support important PTA programs that serve schools, students and families. PTAs are often turned to for fundraising when school resources are short. Especially during economic downturns, our local PTA units provide vital financial assistance to our schools. At the same time, PTAs play an important role in creating healthy schools and supporting the healthy school environment. Balancing the two goals requires reasonable flexibility. The flexibility for states to provide the maximum exemptions from the nutrition standards is an important and responsible component of the guidelines.

SCPTA urges the State Board of Education to allow local school districts the maximum flexibility allowed by law to determine the number of exemptions to provide to our schools. Local districts should be permitted to determine what is appropriate for our local communities. Our strong support of giving school boards the flexibility to set exemptions for school fundraisers, as allowed by the USDA, in no way diminishes our commitment to childhood nutrition standards and to the fight against childhood obesity. The SCPTA and its members are continuing to work at the local and state levels to enhance the nutritional health of our state's children and families.

Thank you,

Dr. Clifford L. Fulmore  
President, SCPTA

Joy Grayson  
VP of Legislation, SCPTA

cc: Danny Varat  
Dr. Mick Zais

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