



**Middlesex  
Coalition  
For  
Children**

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**Testimony on SB 830, Section 19, Subsection (a)  
Education Committee, March 9, 2009**

Betsy Morgan, Director  
Middlesex Coalition for Children

The Middlesex Coalition for Children **STRONGLY OPPOSES** the proposal in the Governor's bill **SB 830** to reduce the state match from ten cents to five cents per lunch for school systems that abide by the nutrition standards established by the State Department of Education.

From the perspective of school systems in Middletown and Middlesex County, we believe that this proposal, if enacted, will not trim, but **destroy** the current system of providing incentives to school systems to follow sound nutrition practices.

Even with a ten cent per meal match, school systems were reluctant to forgo revenues they received from selling "junk food." Locally, it was not an easy decision for the Middletown Public Schools, and public support, in addition to ten cents/meal, was required for the school system to make the commitment.

We believe that cutting the match in half will have the effect of causing school districts to withdraw from the program. If this happens, a successful program will be destroyed, schools will take a big step backward in promoting healthy diets for children, and the long-term health of Connecticut children will be affected.

We urge the legislature to **reject** the Governor's proposal to reduce the match from 10 to 5 cents per meal.

A letter from Lisa Melavan, Food and Nutrition Manger for the Middletown Public Schools, is attached.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.