



Department of Education
The City of Waterbury
Food Service

February 16, 2010

Good Evening,

My name is Linda Franzese, and I am the Director of Food Services for the Waterbury Public Schools. I am appearing before you tonight, to ask that you not cut any funding to our school child nutrition programs.

Specifically, I am in a school district that participates in the CT Healthy Food Certification. We at Waterbury Public Schools have been participating for 3 years, and as others do, we stand to lose half of the money that we've been receiving for participating if these cuts take place. The funding we received from this has allowed us to purchase healthier food choices for our students and we would like to continue to do so by adding more fresh fruits and vegetables and whole grain products that may cost twice as much but are twice as healthy. We don't want to be forced to purchase what costs less, but isn't the healthiest. Unfortunately, the \$115,000 loss to our program may force us to do so.

By choosing to participate in the CT Healthy Food Certification, it mandates the district fundraisers to also follow these same nutritional guidelines, as well as vending machines and school stores. These guidelines assure that our students are getting the healthiest choices when it comes to school meals and snacks. I feel these changes have had a positive impact on our 18,000 plus students in the Waterbury Public School System and with this additional funding we can continue to do so. This not only helps the students to learn to eat healthier in school, but out of school, as well.

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