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From: Amy Kalafa <producers@angrymoms.org>

Subject: News from Two Angry Moms

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Two Angry Moms DVDs

BACK ONLINE NEXT WEEK!!!

Screening - December 3 -
Wilmington, DE

Screening - November 17 -
Hastings-On-Hudson, NY

Screening - November 26 -
Jacob Burns Film Center,
Pleasantville, NY

Amy, Susan and special
guests will hold a panel
discussion following the
screening.

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IT'S A MOVIE, IT'S A MOVEMENT

NEWS FLASH

November 14, 2007

Dear Amy,

Recently, we were invited to show clips of Two Angry Moms in tthe Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Our presentation was enthusiastically



received by a group of Congresspeople, staffers and lobbyists who were all working hard on a bipartisan bill to set national standards for school foods served outside of the National School Lunch Program.

Many of us in the group that went to D.C. that day are now dismayed to find language in the proposed bill that will reverse the progressive state legislation that's recently been passed in Connecticut, Rhode Island and California, and prevent other states from passing similar mandates.

The federal bill, (S.771/H.R.1363) is know as the Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act and will be attached as part of the proposed Harkin- Murkowski amendments to the new and soon-to-be- voted-on Farm Bill. PLEASE contact your Senators using the handy tool in the following article, and read on to find out what some angry moms have to say.

Let's keep our grassroots growing!


Amy Kalafa



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SCOOLOOD.ORG

Email the following letter to your representative and senators in Congress. It's as simple as copying the text below and inserting it in the body of the letter available at: <http://www.rallycongress.com/wiki/800/>

I oppose Senator Harkin's proposed amendment to the Farm Bill regarding nutrition standards for competitive foods in schools because the amendment would pre-empt states from passing more restrictive legislation. I fully support efforts to impose stricter nutrition requirements in schools for vending, competitive foods, ala carte foods and foods served through the National School Lunch Program; however, it is unconscionable and indefensible to prohibit state legislatures from doing better. While it is appropriate for the National government to set the bar, there is no justifiable reason for preventing citizens from setting the bar higher in their own states.

When the health and well-being of our children are at stake, the preferences of industry must take a back seat to the will of the people. I urge you to vote against Senator Harkin's proposed amendment unless and until the pre-emption provision is removed.

KIDSFIRSTRI.ORG

Hello Moms,

Senators Harkin and Murkowski have introduced an amendment to the Farm Bill in the US Senate. This amendment, entitled the Harkin/Murkowski amendment, sets nutrition standards for all competitive foods in our nation's schools. In Rhode Island (RI) we have serious concerns about this amendment and we are actually opposing it for the following reasons:

1. The amendment includes a State Law preemption clause. The clause will render our RI Law null and void. Our State Law, along with CT State Law and CA State Law have set stricter standards than this amendment, especially in regards to beverages allowed in high schools and this Amendment would take precedence. It states that States may NOT have different standards than those set forth in this amendment.
2. The Harkin/Murkowski amendment allows artificially sweetened beverages up to 20 ounces containers of any kind in our high schools. As well, this amendment allows sports drinks in our high schools. Although it states that sports/energy drinks are limited to areas of low traffic and areas where students are engaged in sports, we know this means



high school locker rooms.

3. In allowing artificially sweetened beverages and sports/energy drinks, in RI we know that this means artificially sweetened products that have absolutely no nutritive value. We have seen a myriad of products that don't have the calories but that have caffeine and super fortification. Under this law these products such as the artificially sweetened Red Bull among many others will be allowable in all high schools across the nation. This law opens the door for these products, because it has absolutely no caps set for caffeine nor superfortification, nor other additives. The products are simply required to meet a 10 calorie limit.

If you are as outraged as we are in RI, (in RI we are so upset because we have voted through the passage of State Law to eliminate artificially sweetened beverages and sports drinks from our high school and we will be overturned by this Federal Law), then I urge you to please contact your Senators and inform them of your opinions. You need to do this very quickly as this amendment could be attached to the Farm Bill soon.

Yes, nutrition standards for competitive foods in our children's schools are an excellent and much needed thing, but NOT when those standards have been negotiated with the beverage and snack companies. This bill has been negotiated with the beverage companies and the artificial sweeteners companies at the table. This is unconscionable!

There are many, many public health groups, including the American Public Health Association (APHA), in support of this amendment. They have been informed that this would be best for our nation's children. They have been misinformed in some cases, such as in RI's case. Child health advocates have been told that this Law is actually stricter criteria than RI's Law and this is not true. However, this misinformation has put our RI Senators in a predicament in that if they vote against this amendment it will look like they do not support nutrition standards in RI schools. That is not true; our RI Senators just cannot support these standards that will trump RI's State Law, because their constituents are asking them not to.

The APHA and the American Dietetics Association, among others support this amendment because they say there is not enough science to prove that artificial sweeteners everyday in our children's schools will harm them. Our opinion in RI is: let the beverage companies prove to us that their products will not harm our children!

I turn to Moms to help! If you agree with Rhode



Island, please call your Senator and let him/her know!

Sincerely, Dorothy Brayley Executive Director, Kids First Chair, RI Healthy Schools Coaliton Office: 401-751-4503 E-Mail: dbrayley@kidsfirstri.org

BETTERSCHOOLFOOD.ORG

Here's some words from a health/ wellness point of view.

I'm saddened that the latest addendum to the School Lunch Protection Act contains so many drinks that I would not consider beneficial for children's health. Why would anyone introduce legislation that would want to give the green light for kids to drink sports drinks, sugary "water" beverages and diet sodas in schools? Other than profit for the food industries that manufacture these products, there are no benefits. Perhaps the bill should be called the "Food Industry Profit Protection Act".

Is there any science to show that we need these questionable chemical brews in our kids systems? Plenty of research points to hyperactivity and other behavioral issues connected with artifical colors, flavors and sweeteners. The Lancet, a highly regarded medical journal reported a study connecting artificial colors and hyperactivity just last month.

Many health professionals urge their patients to stay away from artificial sweeteners at all costs due to their highly addictive nature and neurological side effects. Diet soda is simply not beneficial for children's health, so why put it into schools?

When we look only at obesity and count calories, we are can't see the forest for the trees. We must keep in mind other factors in declining children's health. The last thing we need in schools is more kids with behavioral problems.

One last reminder. Don't forget that sports drinks and sugary waters cause tooth decay! The Academy of General Dentistry reports that the enamel damage caused by sports beverages was three to 11 times greater than cola-based drinks. Kids washing their teeth with liquid sugar all day will guarantee that dentistry will continue to be a profitable profession!

At Better School Food, we have put put together member resources for parents who want more information on why artificial sweeteners, sports drinks are bad news for our kids. These short documents are specifically designed for those of you who are working to advocate for a better food environment on the grass roots level in your local

communities. Visit www.betterschoolfood.org to learn more.

Better School Food Better Food = Smarter Brains, Stronger Kids, Healthier Planet Susan Rubin DMD, HHC (914) 864-1293 www.betterschoolfood.org www.angrymoms.org www.drSusanRubin.com

For more information visit [Two Angry Moms](#)

Follow up Links

- [Two Angry Moms](#)
- [Institute for Integrative Nutrition](#)
- [Marion Institute](#)
- [Weston A. Price Foundation](#)
- [NY Coalition for Healthy School Lunches](#)
- [Dr. Susan Rubin](#)

TWO to TWO MILLION

Former Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Susan Combs said it's going to take TWO MILLION angry moms to change school food. That's where YOU come in! Please join us.

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