

SPEECH  
NATIONAL FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE  
NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FEEDING SPECIAL  
NEEDS CHILDREN  
10/31/92

**THANK YOU, RITA, FOR  
THAT KIND INTRODUCTION, AND  
THANK YOU DR. MARTIN AND  
EVERYONE AT THE NATIONAL  
FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT  
INSTITUTE FOR INVITING ME TO  
THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.**

**I UNDERSTAND THAT  
HARRIET CLOUD HELPED  
ORGANIZE THE PROGRAM, AND I  
CAN TELL YOU THAT SHE COMES  
BY HER SKILLS NATURALLY, AS  
HER LATE MOTHER ORGANIZED  
CAMPAIGN TEAS FOR ME IN HER  
HOME IN THE EARLY 1960s  
DURING MY FIRST YEARS IN  
CONGRESS.**

**THE REASON IT WAS SO  
IMPORTANT TO ME TO BE HERE  
TODAY IS THAT THIS  
CONFERENCE BRINGS  
TOGETHER TWO OF THE POLICY  
AREAS I CARE ABOUT MOST --  
CHILD NUTRITION AND  
DISABILITY.**

**MANY OF MY  
CONSERVATIVE COLLEAGUES IN**



**CONGRESS HAVE BEEN  
STUMPED AND EVEN DISMAYED  
BY MY ACTIVISM IN THESE  
AREAS OVER THE YEARS. BUT I  
HAPPEN TO THINK THAT  
HELPING CHILDREN GET THE  
NUTRITION THEY NEED AND  
HELPING PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES BECOME AS  
PRODUCTIVE AND INTEGRATED**

October 29, 1992

TO: SENATOR DOLE  
FROM: STACY HOFFHAUS  
SUBJECT: LOGISTICS - NATIONAL FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

YOU ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO SPEAK AT THE WESTIN CROWN CENTER FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, AT 10:00 A.M. TO THE NATIONAL FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (NFSMI) CONFERENCE ON FEEDING SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN. YOUR KEYNOTE SPEECH IS THE SECOND EVENT ON THE SECOND DAY OF THIS THREE-DAY CONFERENCE. THE PROGRAM IS ATTACHED, AS IS A BACKGROUND MEMO AND THE LETTER OF INVITATION.

YOU ARE SPEAKING IN CENTURY BALLROOM A, BALLROOM LEVEL (3RD FLOOR). I WILL WAIT FOR YOU JUST OUTSIDE THE BALLROOM DOOR. DR. JOSEPHINE MARTIN, THE DIRECTOR OF NFSMI, WILL LIKELY GREET YOU AT THE DOOR. THE PODIUM WILL BE AT THE FAR END OF THE BALLROOM.

RITA HAMMAN, DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE FOR KANSAS, WILL INTRODUCE YOU. AFTER YOU SPEAK, THERE WILL BE A "MEET THE SENATOR" PERIOD FOR YOU TO MINGLE WITH ATTENDEES. I'M TOLD A PHOTOGRAPHER WILL BE THERE. NFSMI HAS BUDGETED HALF AN HOUR FOR MINGLING BUT UNDERSTANDS YOU'LL LIKELY LEAVE MUCH SOONER.

THE 100+ AUDIENCE WILL BE COMPRISED MAINLY OF STATE AND LOCAL SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE OFFICIALS, WITH SOME PUBLIC HEALTH, CHILD NUTRITION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION OFFICIALS.

THERE IS A LARGE KANSAS DELEGATION, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE KANSAS NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE, THE KANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, HUNTER HEALTH CLINIC, THE CAPPER FOUNDATION, AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS FROM ACROSS THE STATE.

MOST ATTENDEES - ESPECIALLY THE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS - WILL BE THRILLED YOU'RE THERE. HOWEVER, SOME SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PEOPLE THINK SERVING KIDS WITH DISABILITIES IS A HASSLE AND THEY WISH YOU HADN'T RAISED THE ISSUE. I'VE TRIED TO MAKE YOUR SPEECH RESPONSIVE TO THEIR CONCERNS BY HAVING YOU ACKNOWLEDGE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE, AND HAVING YOU PLEDGE TO WORK TO HELP GET THEM MORE TRAINING, GUIDANCE, ETC.

IF ANYONE ASKS YOU ABOUT UNIVERSAL SCHOOL LUNCH WHILE YOU'RE MINGLING, HERE'S THE LATEST: USDA THINKS IT WILL BE ABLE TO DO AT LEAST PARTS OF THE UNIVERSAL SCHOOL LUNCH STUDY CALLED FOR IN THE SENATE RESOLUTION YOU COSPONSORED. REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE MILLER INTRODUCED A BILL GIVING SCHOOLS THE OPTION OF ESTABLISHING A UNIVERSAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM BY THE YEAR 2000. THE BILL DOESN'T INCLUDE ANY OFFSET FOR ITS CONSIDERABLE COST. (NUTRITION ADVOCACY GROUPS OTHER THAN ASFSA WANT ANY NEW MONEY SPENT ON NUTRITION TO GO FOR WIC OR FOOD STAMP EXPANSION).



October 29, 1992

TO: SENATOR DOLE  
FROM: STACY HOFFHAUS  
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON SPECIAL NUTRITION ISSUE

SINCE 1982, USDA SECTION 504 REGS HAVE REQUIRED SCHOOLS TO MODIFY MEALS FOR CHILDREN WITH MEDICALLY CERTIFIED DISABILITY-RELATED DIETARY RESTRICTIONS. MODIFIED MEALS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT, AND THERE IS NO EXTRA CHARGE TO THE CHILD. EXAMPLES OF MODIFICATIONS ARE: BLENDERIZED MEALS FOR A CHILD THAT CAN'T CHEW WELL; FRUIT SUBSTITUTED FOR BAKED GOODS FOR A DIABETIC; FORMULA FOR A CHILD THAT MUST BE TUBE-FED. PRELIMINARY SURVEYS SUGGEST IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT OF 1000, ANYWHERE FROM 0 TO 74 CHILDREN WILL REQUIRE MEAL MODIFICATIONS OR FEEDING ASSISTANCE.

WHILE SOME SCHOOLS HAVE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THE REGS, OTHERS DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THEM OR IGNORED THEM, EITHER BECAUSE THEY WORRIED ABOUT EXTRA COSTS AND INCREASED LIABILITY, OR THEY JUST DIDN'T WANT THE HASSLE. SOME SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE PERSONNEL DON'T FEEL THEY HAVE THE PROPER TRAINING TO PLAN OR PREPARE SPECIAL MEALS.

SCHOOLS COULD GET AWAY WITH NOT COMPLYING BECAUSE USDA DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION AND SCHOOLS AREN'T REQUIRED TO NOTIFY PARENTS ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED MEALS. IN FACT, PARENTS OF DISABLED KIDS ARE OFTEN TOLD THEY MUST SEND BROWN BAG LUNCHES. THIS IS CLEARLY A PARTICULAR BURDEN ON LOW-INCOME PARENTS. MANY SPECIAL ED TEACHERS DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE REGS SO THEY TELL PARENTS TO MAKE THEIR KIDS' LUNCHES OR MODIFY THE CAFETERIA MEAL IN THE CLASSROOM -- OFTEN IN LESS THAN HYGIENIC CONDITIONS.

YOUR 1991 FLOOR STATEMENT HAS HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON COMPLIANCE. USDA AND STATE AGENCIES HAVE BEEN PUBLICIZING THE REGS, AND WORD IS STARTING TO GET OUT TO PARENTS THROUGH DISABILITY GROUPS THAT MODIFIED MEALS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE AVAILABLE. USDA WILL WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INFORM SPECIAL ED TEACHERS ABOUT THE REGS AND TO ENCOURAGE FOOD SERVICE PERSONNEL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF IEP'S. (AN IEP IS A DOCUMENT SETTING OUT THE GOALS AND SERVICES REQUIRED FOR A SPECIAL ED STUDENT.)

FINALLY, NFSMI, THE SPONSOR OF THE WORKSHOP YOU ARE ADDRESSING, PLANS TO SURVEY SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE AND SPECIAL ED OFFICIALS TO GET DATA ON SPECIAL MEALS, INCLUDING COSTS, AVAILABILITY, TRAINING NEEDS, AND THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN THAT REQUIRE MEAL MODIFICATIONS.

THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE LOOKED AT DURING THE 1994 CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION. IF NFSMI'S STUDY SHOWS THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIAL MEALS, IT MIGHT MAKE SENSE TO ESTABLISH A SMALL GRANT PROGRAM TO PAY FOR BLENDERS, ACCESSIBLE CAFETERIA TABLES, ETC. YOU MAY ALSO WANT TO CONSIDER REQUIRING SCHOOLS TO NOTIFY PARENTS ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED MEALS. (THIS ISN'T IN YOUR SPEECH BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SCARE THE FOOD SERVICE PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE).



# **NUTRITION MANAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

## **Preliminary Agenda**

### **Thursday, October 29**

- 4:00 p.m. Registration
- 7:00 p.m. Welcome/Introductions
- 7:15 p.m. Looking at the Whole Child
- 8:00 p.m. Greetings and Message from USDA/FNS
- 8:30 p.m. Overview of Workshop Program and Objectives
- 8:45 p.m. *Announcements and Adjourn*

### **Friday, October 30**

- 8:30 a.m. Welcome
- 8:45 a.m. Children at Risk for Developmental Disabilities
- 9:20 a.m. Can You Feel What I Feel?
- 10:00 a.m. *Refreshment Break*
- 10:20 a.m. Panel Presentation: Legislative Provisions for Children with Special Needs
- Noon *Luncheon: Speaker TBA*
- 1:30 p.m. The Important Role of School Lunch in Providing Nutrition for Children with Special Needs
- 2:00 p.m. Panel Presentation: Successful Special Needs Nutrition: A Team Effort
- 3:10 p.m. *Refreshment Break*

- 3:30 p.m. Small Group Sessions:  
Registered Dietitians: How Can They Help?  
Special Diets for Special Conditions  
How Can My Cafeteria Provide for Special Needs Children?  
It's a Matter of Texture  
Reimbursement for Nutrition Services  
Building the Future Through Child Nutrition
- 4:30 p.m. Providing Nutrition Care in Schools
- 5:15 p.m. *Announcements and Adjourn  
Dinner On Your Own*

### **Saturday, October 31, 1992**

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome  
~~Topic~~ The Congressional Commitment to Special Needs Children  
Senator Bob Dole
- 9:05 a.m. How to Avoid Nutrient Imbalances in Texturally Restricted Diets
- 10:00 a.m. *Refreshment Break*
- 10:20 a.m. Equipment and Techniques for Feeding Children with Special Needs
- 11:00 a.m. IEP: Nutrition Goals and Objectives
- Noon *Luncheon*  
Special Needs Nutrition Management: The Administrator's Role
- 1:30 p.m. I Can Make the Difference
- 2:00 p.m. Roundtable Discussions by Regions: Networking Strategies for Special Needs Nutrition
- 2:45 p.m. Closing Remarks
- 3:00 p.m. *Adjourn*

Malady  
Judy  
Ry v



*Senator Bob Dole*



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May 13, 1992

Ms. Yvonne Hopkins  
Executive Assistant  
Office of Senator Robert Dole  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

Dear Ms. Hopkins:

The National Food Service Management Institute needs your help.

We have planned a two-day workshop on Feeding Children with Special Needs. The workshop will be held at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, October 29-31, 1992. The purpose of this letter is to seek your assistance in conveying an invitation to Senator Dole to participate in this important workshop.

A preliminary list of topics for the workshop is enclosed. Harriet Cloud of the University of Alabama has assisted us in designing the program and we anticipate that she will make an important presentation during the workshop.

Because of Senator Dole's intense interest in children with special needs, we would be honored to have him deliver the keynote address for the workshop, reiterating the congressional commitment to the disabled child and stressing the importance of the role of proper food and delivery in the health and education of the disabled child. Recognizing his very busy schedule and the proximity of the workshop to Election Day, we would arrange his participation for his convenience.

In addition to providing the workshop, the NFSMI is conducting two research projects related to program and administrative needs of nutrition programs for children with disabilities; we have also prepared and distributed an annotated bibliography of current research and materials related to feeding children with special needs. When funds are available, we will prepare videotapes for distribution to child nutrition personnel. Another need that has



Ms. Yvonne Hopkins  
May 13, 1992  
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been discussed with Stacy Hoffhaus, is to provide materials for Special Education Directors on the role of nutrition and the concerns relating to meeting the needs of children with disabilities.

The workshop is designed to reach at least 100 leaders in child nutrition and special education at the state and district level.

Senator Dole's continuing interest in this area of child nutrition has been a catalyst for designing activities for improving nutrition services to children with special needs.

I look forward to hearing from you that it will be possible to include this workshop in his very busy schedule. If you, or the Senator have questions or need additional information about the workshop, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

  
Josephine Martin, Ph.D., R.D.  
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: ✓ Stacy Hoffhaus  
Sue Greig  
Rita Hamman  
Harriet Cloud  
Laverne Hellums

**AS POSSIBLE ARE TWO OF  
GOVERNMENT'S WORTHIEST  
ROLES.**

**EVERYONE HERE TODAY IS  
DEDICATED TO HELPING  
OTHERS, BECAUSE YOU HAVE  
ALL MADE SERVING CHILDREN  
THE FOCUS OF YOUR WORK.  
AND MANY OF THE CHILDREN  
WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM WHAT**



**YOU LEARN AT THIS  
CONFERENCE ARE AMONG  
THOSE WHO NEED YOUR HELP  
AND ATTENTION MOST. A  
POPULAR MAXIM AMONG THOSE  
OF US IN CONGRESS WHO  
ACTIVELY SUPPORT SCHOOL  
MEAL PROGRAMS IS THAT A  
HUNGRY CHILD CANNOT LEARN.  
THIS IS DOUBLY TRUE OF**

# **CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS.**

**FOR A CHILD WITH  
DIABETES OR SEVERE  
ALLERGIES, APPROPRIATE  
NUTRITION CAN MEAN THE  
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
SICKNESS AND HEALTH.**

**FOR A SEVERELY DISABLED  
CHILD, APPROPRIATE NUTRITION**



**CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN BEING ALERT AND  
RESPONSIVE, OR PASSIVE AND  
WITHDRAWN.**

**AND AS ANY PARENT OF  
SUCH A CHILD WILL TELL YOU,  
THERE'S A WORLD OF  
DIFFERENCE IN THIS  
DISTINCTION. THE EXPERTS  
HERE WILL CONFIRM THAT IT'S**

**NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY  
THAT YOUR INTERVENTION  
MIGHT EVEN SAVE A LIFE.**

**I RECOGNIZE THAT WHEN  
THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM  
WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1946, AND  
WHEN I WAS INVOLVED IN  
EXPANDING IT DURING THE  
EARLY 1970'S, NO ONE  
ENVISIONED THAT REGULAR**

**SCHOOLS WOULD BE ASKED TO  
SERVE SO MANY CHILDREN  
WITH SUCH A WIDE ARRAY OF  
DISABILITIES AND CHRONIC  
ILLNESSES. MANY OF THESE  
CHILDREN COME FROM LOW-  
INCOME FAMILIES WITHOUT THE  
FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO  
PROVIDE THEM ADEQUATE  
NUTRITION, MAKING THEIR**



**NEEDS THAT MUCH MORE  
PRESSING.**

**I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT  
IN THE NUTRITION AREA,  
ACCOMMODATING A CHILD WITH  
A DISABILITY IS OFTEN AS  
SIMPLE AS SUBSTITUTING FRUIT  
FOR A PIECE OF CAKE, OR  
MAKING AVAILABLE A SPECIAL  
PLATE OR CUP. STILL, I KNOW**

**THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
SERVING THESE CHILDREN CAN  
BE A CHALLENGE, ESPECIALLY  
IN THESE TIMES OF TIGHT  
RESOURCES.**

**I REALIZE THAT PREPARING  
SPECIAL MEALS CAN REQUIRE  
EXTRA LABOR, MORE STAFF  
TRAINING, NEW EQUIPMENT,  
AND MORE COSTLY FOOD**

**ITEMS. I ALSO KNOW MANY  
SCHOOLS, PARTICULARLY  
RURAL ONES, ARE CONCERNED  
ABOUT HOW TO FIND ACCESS  
TO HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
QUALIFIED TO RECOMMEND  
DIETS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN  
WITH MORE COMPLEX  
NUTRITIONAL NEEDS. BUT WE  
NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO**



**SOLVE THESE CHALLENGES,  
BECAUSE THE LAW AND  
FEDERAL REGULATIONS  
REQUIRE THESE  
ACCOMMODATIONS TO BE  
MADE. AND WE AS A SOCIETY  
HAVE MADE THE  
DETERMINATION THAT WE ARE  
BETTER OFF -- BOTH MORALLY  
AND FINANCIALLY -- IF WE**

**INCLUDE PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES IN THE  
MAINSTREAM OF LIFE, RATHER  
THAN EXCLUDE THEM.**

**THIS PRINCIPLE HAS FOUND  
ITS MOST RECENT AND  
POWERFUL EXPRESSION IN THE  
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES  
ACT, LANDMARK CIVIL RIGHTS  
LEGISLATION WHICH IS FOR**

**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
WHAT THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF  
1964 WAS FOR MINORITIES.**

**THIS SAME PRINCIPLE  
UNDERLIES THE INDIVIDUALS  
WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION  
ACT, WHICH DECLARES THAT  
ALL CHILDREN WITH  
DISABILITIES ARE ENTITLED TO A  
FREE AND APPROPRIATE PUBLIC**



**EDUCATION. AND IT IS BEHIND  
THE PROPOSITION THAT, JUST  
AS OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM  
IS FOR ALL CHILDREN, THE  
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH  
PROGRAM IS FOR ALL  
CHILDREN, TOO.**

**OF COURSE, AS YOU AND I  
WELL KNOW, IT'S ALL TOO EASY  
FOR THE FEDERAL**

**GOVERNMENT TO COME UP  
WITH MANDATES AND THEN  
LEAVE THE CHALLENGING WORK  
OF IMPLEMENTING THEM TO  
PEOPLE LIKE YOU ON THE  
FRONT LINES. FOR EXAMPLE,  
THE AMERICANS WITH  
DISABILITIES ACT, WHICH I  
COSPONSORED, MAKES SOME  
PRETTY SIGNIFICANT NEW**

**DEMANDS ON BUSINESSES IN  
THE AREA OF EMPLOYMENT AND  
ACCESSIBILITY. DURING  
CONGRESS' CONSIDERATION OF  
THE ACT, I ADDED AMENDMENTS  
PROVIDING FOR TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE AND TAX CREDITS  
FOR AFFECTED SMALL  
BUSINESSES, BECAUSE I  
WANTED TO MAKE SURE THEY**



**HAD THE TOOLS FOR  
COMPLYING WITH IT.**

**I WANT USDA'S  
REGULATIONS REQUIRING  
SUBSTITUTE MEALS FOR  
DISABLED CHILDREN TO WORK,  
TOO, AND I WILL DO WHAT I CAN  
TO HELP YOU MAKE SURE THAT  
THEY DO. CLEARLY, CONGRESS  
WILL NEED TO LOOK AT THE**

**REQUIREMENTS PLACED ON  
SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE BY THE  
FEDERAL REGULATIONS ON  
MODIFYING MEALS FOR  
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES  
WHEN WE REAUTHORIZE THE  
CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS IN  
1994. I PLEDGE TO WORK WITH  
YOU IN SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE  
BEFORE AND DURING THE**

**REAUTHORIZATION PROCESS TO  
HELP YOU GET THE TOOLS YOU  
NEED TO SERVE THESE  
CHILDREN.**

**THERE'S MUCH WE NEED TO  
KNOW, SUCH AS HOW MANY  
CHILDREN HAVE SPECIAL  
DIETARY NEEDS, WHAT IT COSTS  
TO SERVE THEM, AND HOW WE  
CAN IMPROVE THE TRAINING OF**



**THE SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO  
PROVIDE MEALS FOR THEM.**

**THE INSTITUTE INTENDS TO  
LOOK AT THESE ISSUES, AND I  
KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU IN  
YOUR OWN STATES AND LOCAL  
AREAS HAVE BEEN ASKING  
THESE SAME QUESTIONS.**

**I URGE YOU TO SHARE  
YOUR FINDINGS WITH ME AND**

**MY STAFF, AS WELL AS YOUR  
CONCERNS, FRUSTRATIONS,  
AND SUCCESSES IN PROVIDING  
NUTRITION TO SPECIAL NEEDS  
CHILDREN. I WANT TO HEAR  
FROM YOU, AND I WANT TO  
HELP YOU.**

**FINALLY, IT'S IMPORTANT  
TO EMPHASIZE THAT SCHOOL  
FOODSERVICE CANNOT TAKE ON**

**THIS TASK SINGLE-HANDEDLY.  
THEY NEED THE SUPPORT AND  
COOPERATION OF PARENTS,  
EDUCATORS, AND HEALTH  
PROVIDERS IN THE SCHOOL  
SYSTEM AND THE COMMUNITY.  
THE FACT THAT THE  
DEPARTMENTS OF  
AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION  
ARE NOW WORKING TOGETHER**



**ON THIS ISSUE WILL BE A BIG  
HELP, AND I WANT TO THANK  
THEIR REPRESENTATIVES FOR  
BEING RESPONSIVE TO MY  
CONCERNS AND SUGGESTIONS.**

**I KNOW THERE IS A  
WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE FOR  
THESE CHILDREN. THERE'S A  
CAFETERIA MANAGER IN**

**PHOENIX WHO LEARNED SIGN  
LANGUAGE SO SHE COULD  
COMMUNICATE WITH SPEECH-  
IMPAIRED STUDENTS. THERE  
ARE TEACHERS ALL OVER THE  
COUNTRY WHO USE THEIR OWN  
POCKET MONEY TO BUY FOOD  
THEIR STUDENTS CAN EAT. AND  
THERE ARE MANY SCHOOL  
DISTRICTS IN MY OWN STATE**

**AND OTHERS WHERE  
ACCESSIBLE MEAL PROGRAMS  
ARE ALREADY A REALITY.**

**NO ONE CAN SAY WHAT IT  
MEANS TO BE ABLE TO  
PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHOOL  
LUNCH PROGRAM QUITE AS  
WELL AS THE CHILDREN  
THEMSELVES. SO I'D LIKE TO  
CLOSE BY SHARING WITH YOU**



**TWO LETTERS I'VE RECEIVED  
FROM CHILDREN WITH  
DISABILITIES WHO RECEIVE  
MODIFIED MEALS.**

**"ALL THE WORKERS MAKE  
ME FEEL GOOD WHEN I'M IN THE  
CAFETERIA. I LIKE BEING WITH  
ALL MY FRIENDS."**

**"IT'S QUIET AND RELAXING  
IN OUR CAFETERIA. THE STAFF  
ARE NICE AND KIND. I LIKE  
TALKING WITH THEM ABOUT  
WORKING WITH THE  
DISHWASHER. THEY COOK  
GOOD AND THE FOOD IS OKAY."**

**###**