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AFFI Applauds House Education and Workforce Committee for Advancing School Snack Program Expansion

McLean, Va. – The [American Frozen Food Institute](#) (AFFI) today commended the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce for approving legislation that includes language to expand the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) to allow schools to serve a greater range of fruits and vegetables, including frozen.

Introduced by Rep. Todd Rokita (R-Ind.), the “Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016” (H.R. 5003) authorizes all federal child nutrition programs. The bill contains a provision that expands USDA’s FFVP to allow schools to serve all forms of fruits and vegetables – fresh, frozen, canned and dried as snacks. Currently the program restricts schools to serving only fresh produce.

“AFFI applauds the House Education and Workforce Committee for advancing legislation expanding USDA’s Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program,” said AFFI President and CEO Alison Bodor. “We look forward to working with school nutritionists and other stakeholders to ensure this expanded program is approved by Congress and signed into law by President Obama.”

“USDA’s 2015 *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* recognize the value of frozen fruits and vegetables. As confirmed by [Frozen Food Foundation](#)-commissioned nutritional studies conducted by the [Universities of Georgia](#) (UGA) and [California-Davis](#) (UC Davis), frozen fruits and vegetables are as rich in nutrients, and often more so, than fresh-stored produce,” said Bodor. “This legislation ensures all forms of fruits and vegetables will meet certain nutrition requirements to provide kids with access to the most nutritious fruit and vegetable options.”

In advance of the hearing, AFFI and a coalition of more than 60 allied trade associations and fruit and vegetable producers [sent a letter](#) to committee leadership stressing that USDA’s own 2015 *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* recommend that Americans eat more fruits and vegetables, regardless of the form, and expanding the FFVP would align the program with the agency’s recommendations.

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The American Frozen Food Institute is the national trade association promoting and representing the interests of all segments of the frozen food and beverage industry. AFFI works to foster industry development and growth, and advocates before legislative and regulatory entities on the industry’s behalf. More information can be found at www.affi.org.