



www.ndfsa.org  
315.452.MILK (6455)  
info@ndfsa.org  
5701 E Circle Dr  
Suite 108 #277  
Cicero, NY 13039

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chair  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairwoman Foxx,

Northeast Dairy Foods Association, Inc. writes in support of the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023 (H.R. 1147) which would allow whole and reduced-fat milk to be served in school meals, and we respectfully ask the House Committee on Education and the Workforce to approve this critical bipartisan legislation. Providing the option to serve whole and reduced-fat milk allows schools, parents, and children to choose the milk they prefer so that children are more likely to consume milk's 13 essential nutrients.

Northeast Dairy Foods Association's represents over 80 dairy processors, manufacturers and distributors in the northeast.

Milk—including whole (3.25% milkfat), reduced fat (2%), low-fat (1%), non-fat (0%), and lactose-free-- is the top source of calcium, potassium, phosphorus, and vitamin D for kids ages 2-18. In fact, whole and reduced fat milk contain the same nutrients as all other fluid milk, including calcium, phosphorus, protein, vitamins A, D and B12, pantothenic acid, riboflavin, and niacin.

However, since 2012, USDA regulations have only allowed schools to serve low-fat and non-fat milk. During this time period, school milk consumption has continually declined, including a 9% drop in total volume between the 2011-12 and 2015-16 school years when, among other USDA restrictions, whole and reduced-fat milk was banned from schools. The 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) highlights that between 68% and 76.2% of school age males and between 77.4% and 94.3% of school age females fail to meet recommended levels of dairy consumption.

The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act would allow schools to return whole and reduced fat milk to menus to improve school milk consumption and as a result, improve school nutrition.

We thank Representative G.T. Thompson, Representative Kim Schrier and more than 100 bipartisan House co-sponsors for introducing and supporting the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023 and respectfully ask the House Committee on Education and the Workforce to approve this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Daniel Lausch  
President  
Northeast Dairy Foods Association