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CONTACT: Adrienne Richards Seiling
(703) 821-0770

AFFI Lauds Legislation to Expand School Snack Program

McLean, VA –[American Frozen Food Institute](#) (AFFI) President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz today expressed support for bipartisan legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives that will enable elementary schools to serve a full range of healthy fruit and vegetable snacks.

Introduced by Reps. Bruce Poliquin (R-Maine) and Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.), the “Fruit and Vegetable Access for Children Act” (H.R. 3532) expands the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Fruit and Vegetable Program to allow schools to serve all forms of fruit and vegetables as snacks, including frozen. Currently the program restricts schools to serving only raw produce.

“AFFI commends Reps. Poliquin and Schrader for leading efforts to expand USDA’s Fruit and Vegetable Program, which will help enhance childhood nutrition and promote healthy eating habits. This expansion will give schools year-round access to the widest possible variety of healthy and affordable fruits and vegetables in all forms, including frozen.

“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. Considering their nutritional content along with their availability, affordability and functionality, it’s easy to see why school nutritionists from across the country have been clamoring for the opportunity to offer frozen fruits and vegetables to the kids they serve.

“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, which will help USDA meet its own *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* that encourage the consumption of frozen fruits and vegetables.”

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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.