



April 9, 2010

The Honorable Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature  
Post Office Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Legislator,

I am writing to express the American Cancer Society's support of Assembly Bill 746/Senate Bill 536, related to promoting the use of locally grown foods in school meals.

Approximately one-third of all cancer deaths are attributable to poor diet, physical inactivity, and overweight and obesity. In addition, there is substantial evidence of the relationship between nutrition and cancer risk. Many epidemiologic studies have shown that populations that eat diets high in vegetables, fruits and whole grains and low in animal fat and red and processed meats have reduced risk of some of the most common cancers. Greater consumption of vegetables and fruits is associated with decreased risk of lung, esophageal, stomach and colorectal cancer. In addition, poor nutrition, including consumption of calorie-dense and high sugar foods and beverages, is a major contributor to obesity.

It is essential that healthy eating patterns are established early in childhood. Maintaining healthy eating habits and a healthy weight from childhood through adulthood can substantially reduce an individual's cancer risk. Schools are a critical place to teach children about adopting a healthy diet for life. The Society supports policies that provide quality, affordable nutritious foods in schools and quality, age-appropriate health and physical education to all students.

We recognize that fostering healthy behaviors and removing barriers to healthy eating may be among the most critical actions we can take to promote wellness and reduce the burden of cancer in Wisconsin. The Society supports Assembly Bill 746/Senate Bill 536 as a way to promote healthy eating behaviors and increase access to healthy foods in schools and urges you to approve this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Meyer".

Bob Meyer  
Wisconsin Government Relations Director