

The Academy's Public Policy Workshop was on June 23 and 24, 2016 in Washington D.C. As members of the Advocacy Pillar for UAND, Martha Archuleta and Wendy Phillips were honored to attend PPW and meet with Congressmen and their aides to advocate for nutrition-related public policy. The three bills that we focused on are summarized here:

Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA) Bill numbers: H.R. 2404, S. 1509

What does this bill do?

Removes unnecessary barriers to

- (1) allow a variety of qualified practitioners, such as RDNs, to effectively treat and reduce obesity through Intensive Behavior Therapy (IBT) and directly bill Medicare for the services provided; and
- (2) authorize coverage for FDA approved weight loss drugs to complement IBT.

Preventing Diabetes in Medicare Act Bill numbers: H.R. 1686, Senate 3082

What does this bill do?

Allows Medicare coverage of MNT for patients with prediabetes, or with risk factors for diabetes.

Child Nutrition Reauthorization

Programs within CNR

- National School Breakfast (NSLP)
- National School Lunch (NSBP)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)
- Farm to School (FTS)
- Summer Meals (SMP)
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Why do we support the Senate version but not the House version?

The Senate Agriculture Committee passed a bi-partisan bill on January 21, 2016	House bill 5003, Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016
Included almost all of the Academy's recommendations	Very few of the Academy recommendations were included
Academy led win in nutrition education and for changes in RDNs working in residential child care institutions	
Includes provisions that may <i>improve</i> children's health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CACFP snack inclusion • Farm to School increase of mandatory funding • WIC inclusion of kindergarten gap 	Includes provisions that may cause <i>harm</i> to children's health and increase hunger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving the threshold for community eligibility from 40% to 60% • Instituting a block grant pilot for school meals program

- School Kitchen Equipment increased funding
- Summer Meal Program incremental expansion to fill hunger gap
- Protect the integrity of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

- Eliminating evidence-based nutrition standards for children's meals which are working in 98% of schools.
- Eliminating the word "fresh" from the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

We can all be aware of and involved in the Academy's grassroots advocacy efforts in many ways to promote the expertise of RDNs and NDTRs – One of these ways is through completing action alerts. Check out this video to see how easy it is!

<https://youtu.be/OGE3Dci-IGk> and then take action here: www.eatright.org/action-center.



Picture (from L to R): Martha Archuleta and Wendy Phillips, RDNs from Utah meeting with Heath Hansen, the health aide for Utah Senator Mike Lee.

Picture (from L to R): Wendy Phillips, Stuart Portman (health legislative aide for Senator Orrin Hatch) and Martha Archuleta.

