

# IMPROVING HEALTH

## CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION

This year Congress will review most federal nutrition programs as part of the reauthorization of the Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC ) programs. The reauthorization has the potential to significantly increase consumption of apples and apple products as schools work to meet the revised Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) and improve the overall quality and nutrition of school meals. In order to achieve this, a significant increase in the reimbursement rates provided to schools is needed. Studies by the School Nutrition Association and the Department of Agriculture show that the current reimbursement rates do not fully cover the cost of a meal. Making healthy improvements, such as including more fruits and vegetables, will further increase costs. President Obama and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack strongly support these important programs and included a \$1 billion dollar increase in the Administration's proposed FY11 budget.

USApple is an active member of the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity (NANA), a coalition of public health organizations and other stakeholders working to improve the quality and nutrition of school meals. USApple and other members of NANA have been meeting with key Congressional offices and Administration officials to stress the need for proper funding of these important programs.

***USApple Position: USApple urges Congress to increase the reimbursement rates for school meals tied to the implementation of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans in school meals.***

***USApple supports expansion of apple purchases for federal nutrition programs through the fresh sliced apple program, fruit and vegetable snack program, DOD Fresh Program and Section 32 Purchases.***