

USDA Satellite Features Feed

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FEATURE – VILSACK PRESENTS CHILD NUTRITION PLAN

INTRO: Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack presented the Obama Administration's priorities for improving child nutrition in the U-S. The USDA's Bob Ellison has more.

SPEAKING AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TOM VILSACK SAYS THE U-S FACES TWO DIFFERENT PROBLEMS WHEN IT COMES TO CHILD NUTRITION IN THE UNITED STATES.

Tom Vilsack, Agriculture Secretary: Some of our children are hungry. And many of our children are obese. It is that challenge and those children that bring me here today. Our children are eating too much sugar, salts and fats, too few fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low fat dairy products. This may explain why one half of the calories consumed by our children ages six to eleven in this country are considered empty calories.

VILSACK SAID TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM, CONGRESS SHOULD REAUTHORIZE THE CHILD NUTRITION ACT, WHICH WOULD HELP COMBAT HIGH CHILD OBESITY RATES.

Vilsack: Fortunately the First Lady Michelle Obama has chosen to lead our effort and the Administration's effort on this issue. I join with many who are thankful that her Let's Move initiative is focused on raising a generation of children to be healthy adults.

ALSO, VILACK SAID REAUTHORIZING THE CHILD NUTRITION ACT WOULD HELP THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORT TO ELIMINATE CHILDHOOD HUNGER IN THE U-S BY TWENTY FIFTEEN.

Vilsack: We'll provide through reauthorization competitive grants to governors working with stakeholders statewide so that states can act as laboratories for successful strategies. We'll let them be creative in experimenting with models that match program delivery with evaluation so we can learn what works and what doesn't.

IN WASHINGTON D-C FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE I'M BOB ELLISON.