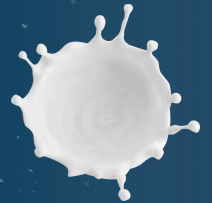




S. 222, WHOLE MILK FOR HEALTHY KIDS ACT OF 2025



BACKGROUND: Milk has 13 essential nutrients that are needed for children to live healthy lives and succeed in school.

- Currently, only fat-free and low-fat milks are permitted in school meals because of concerns about high cholesterol and obesity in young people, with milk consumption blamed as the cause.
- But USDA's own findings across administrations say that not enough school children are consuming the recommended levels of dairy.
- Additionally, research demonstrates that full fat dairy is associated with a neutral or lower risk of heart disease and obesity.
- Congress has long shared bipartisan concern about limiting milk choice and has sought to expand it through appropriations since FY 2015.

THE PROBLEM: In 2010, schools were prohibited from serving whole milk to students when milk was singled out for regulation. Students are missing out on essential nutrients because of this unnecessary, uninformed government regulation.

- If children don't like the milk they're being served, they won't drink it. When milk variety is not available, students turn to highly-caffeinated sugar-sweetened beverages with little nutritional value.
- In fact, the rate of obesity and diabetes among young people has increased significantly as a result.
- Thankfully, in response to public outcry, the previous administration reversed course on even more restrictive milk regulations, but more can be done.

THE SOLUTION: The *Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025*, championed in the House by Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson, will correct a misguided decision to restrict milk choice in school meals by giving schools the option to serve all types of milk, including whole and 2 percent.

- Specifically, this bipartisan legislation seeks to give school food service providers simplicity, flexibility, and choice in milk options so they can easily craft nutritious meals students will consume and enjoy.
- S. 222 also honors parental and student choice to round out a nutritious meal with a popular, healthy beverage, including the option for non-dairy beverages.

BOTTOM LINE:

The Committee is proud to bring bipartisan legislation before Congress that supports the health, development, and education of our young people by giving students, parents, and food service providers the simplicity, flexibility, and choice in milk options for a nutritious meal we know they will enjoy and consume.