

ASHER ILLICK-FRANK

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Below is a constituent response letter regarding Congressman Mark Pocan supporting the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023.

Dear [Constituent],

Thank you for contacting me regarding your support for H.R. 1147, the *Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023*. I appreciate hearing from constituents on this issue.

Due to the current guidelines of the National School Lunch Program, established by the Department of Agriculture (USDA), schools are not permitted to distribute whole or 2% milk during meals. As a result, millions of students across the country are missing out on essential nutrients in whole milk. These guidelines lead students to turn to highly caffeinated sugar-sweetened beverages with little nutritional value.

For these reasons, I have cosponsored the *Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023*. This proposed bill seeks to remove current limitations, enabling schools to offer both nutritious whole and reduced-fat milk, alongside low-fat and fat-free options. This honors the choices of parents and students for a favored beverage, contributing to well-rounded and nutritious meals. Moreover, for school meal providers planning meals, changing the guidelines would also increase simplicity, flexibility, and choice of beverage options that students enjoy. This legislation passed the House in December and awaits a vote in the Senate.

I support giving students the choice to pick a variety of dairy options during their school lunches. Rest assured, I will continue to advocate for the passage of this legislation through Congress until it becomes law.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at 608-258-9800. If you would like to receive regular updates from me on this and other congressional issues, please visit my website at <https://pocan.house.gov> or follow me on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/repmarkpocan>) and Twitter (@RepMarkPocan).

Sincerely,

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress