Appendix H.5 Public Comment 5

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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School Meals Operations Study: Evaluation of the School-Based Child Nutrition Programs

Comment On: FNS-2023-0003-0001

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Evaluation of the

School-based Child Nutrition Programs

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General Comment

I agree with providing nutritional meals to school children. I am a grandmother and a frequent visitor to my children's and grandchildren's school to share lunch with them. I also worked in a school cafeteria back when we were still preparing the meals there at the school. Since schools were mandated to follow specific guidelines, they began to contract with outside companies that made prepackaged foods for mass distribution. My first hand experience is, nutrition means nothing if they won't eat it. The meals need to be flavorful. I can assure you that if several officials who are setting these guidelines actually ate what is being offered to the children in school meals for one week, they would definitely ensure the meals were nutritious and Flavorful! Some of what was served to me at my children's schools was a close resemblance to a hockey puck and tasted like cardboard. This created the issue where the children either bring their lunch from home, mooch off other children or just don't eat. I commend your efforts for wanting children to eat healthy but I from what I have observe, first you need to get them to eat it!