

Submitter: Francia Yera  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3201

Francia Yera  
Child Nutrition Coordinator, Adelante Mujeres  
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Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Scharf, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Francia Yera, and I serve as the Child Nutrition Coordinator at Adelante Mujeres, an organization dedicated to providing holistic education and empowerment opportunities to low-income Latine women and their families. Despite the fact that more than 18% of the U.S. population is Latine, we remain significantly underrepresented in decision-making roles, particularly in policies that directly impact our children's health and well-being.

I am writing today in strong support of HB 3201, a bill that will strengthen the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) by increasing meal reimbursements, ensuring equitable support for home-based providers, and funding culturally specific menu development.

For the families we serve, food is more than just nourishment—it is a connection to their culture, their identity, and their community. Every day, I witness how access to fresh, culturally relevant meals transforms the way children eat, learn, and grow. Parents in our program tell us how amazed they are to see their children eagerly trying new fruits and vegetables—foods they may have once refused—simply because they have been given the opportunity to explore and enjoy them at school. This early exposure to healthy eating sets the foundation for lifelong habits, yet providers who make this possible are struggling to keep up with rising food and labor costs.

The reality is clear: current CACFP reimbursement rates do not reflect the true cost of providing high-quality meals. Many providers, especially those serving low-income and Latine communities, are stretching their already limited budgets to ensure children have access to fresh, nutritious food. Without increased support, these programs—lifelines for so many families—are at risk of cutting corners or, worse, shutting down.

HB 3201 is more than just a funding adjustment; it is an investment in the health,

dignity, and future of our children. It ensures that all children, regardless of their background or the type of childcare they attend, have access to meals that nourish both their bodies and their cultural identity. It recognizes the essential role of childcare providers and gives them the resources they need to continue feeding our youngest and most vulnerable community members.

I urge you to support HB 3201 and take action to strengthen CACFP. Our children deserve better. Our providers deserve better. And together, we can build a stronger, healthier future for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Francia Yera  
Child Nutrition Coordinator  
Adelante Mujeres