



775 CRANBERRY STREET NEWLAND, NC 28657 Phone: 828-733-6006 Fax: 828-733-8943 www.averyschools.net

**Child Nutrition Services
Tammy Woodie, Director**

March 25, 2011

Dear Senator Hise,

I am writing you with great concern for SB389-moving the Child Nutrition Services program from the Department of Public Instruction to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. I have worked for Avery County Schools for over 15 years; the majority of that time has been in the child nutrition program, of which I am currently the Director. I have been the director for this program now for two years, during which time; I have received invaluable training and support from the staff at NC Child Nutrition Services at the Department of Public Instruction. Never have I called upon their staff that I did not have an answer in a timely manner, many times on the same day.

I feel this move would be to the detriment of Child Nutrition programs across the state. We have many changes about to take place with reauthorization. The Child Nutrition Service staff, under the leadership of Dr. Harvey has provided us with support and training that will be essential to the successful operation of our programs while these changes are taking place. It saddens my heart that we have to be concerned about having our support and infrastructure moved at a time when we need the support the most. This is not a time for chaos in our NC Child Nutrition Services Department.

We have seen many changes in the way business is being done in North Carolina in the past several years. I have been so pleased to see the increased communications between school officials and the child nutrition staff. I believe this to be a result of Dr. Harvey working with them, educating them on the value of child nutrition in our schools. Hungry children cannot learn. We are all passionate and working for the same goal: the good and education of North Carolina's children. During this economic climate, I do not think we would be good stewards of the tax payer's dollars, should we incur the unnecessary expense of moving a department that is already working efficiently.

These are only a few of the concerns that I have regarding this bill. I would appreciate a response to what is the purpose of this move. I do not see anything about this move that would be good for Child Nutrition or the children in North Carolina in which we serve.

Please consider these comments.

Sincerely,

Tammy Woodie
Child Nutrition Director

Avery County Board of Education

John Greene

Kathey Aldridge

Dr. Bob Clark

Steve Smith

Keith Tutterow