KELLY A. AYOTTE
NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE
HOMELAND SECURITY & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET
AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3324

144 RUSSELL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

1200 ELM STREET, SUITE 2
MANCHESTER, NH 03101

144 MAIN STREET
NASHUA, NH 03060

14 MANCHESTER SQUARE, SUITE 140
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

19 PLEASANT STREET, SUITE 13B
BERLIN, NH 03570

November 26, 2013

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary, United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

As we work to meet the nutritional needs of America's neediest students, I write to share with you my concerns about a federal regulation that is resulting in wasted food.

It has come to my attention that in Manchester, New Hampshire, a federal guideline requires that students who bring their own lunch and who want a milk must also take a full meal – even though it frequently ends up being discarded. A policy that results in wasted food is clearly not achieving its goals.

This is a classic example of a misguided regulation from Washington that highlights the importance of local school districts being able to make decisions that best serve local students. While federal school meal guidelines should promote high nutritional standards, I ask you to review this rule to ensure that school districts – such as the one in Manchester, New Hampshire – have the flexibility they need to effectively meet the nutritional needs of students.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Ayotte

Kelly A. Ayotte
United States Senator

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER