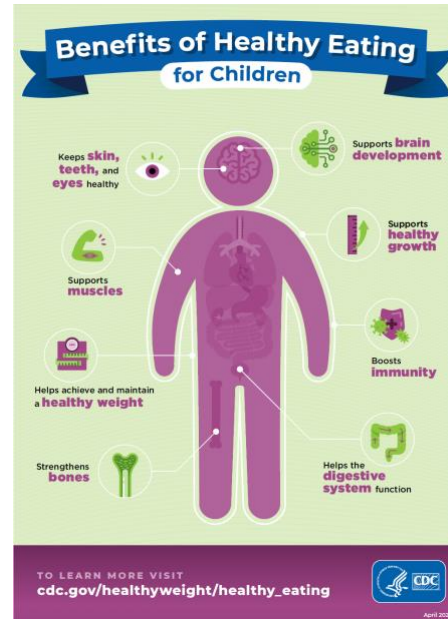


Dear Human Services Committee,

I am a pediatrician who works in New Haven and Advocacy Chair for the CT-American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter.

I am writing in support of **H.B. No. 6101 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID COVERAGE OF FOOD AS MEDICINE AND EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE CONNECTICUT FARMERS' MARKET/WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN NUTRITIO PROGRAM.**

The American Academy of Pediatrics [advocates for expanding access to nutritional assistance programs](#) such as the WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). This helps to ensure that child experience the benefits of healthy eating such as improved brain development, boosted immunity, strong bones and muscles, and normal growth (image).



Children who experience [food insecurity](#), defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food or nutritious food such as fresh fruits and vegetables, are at an increased risk of multiple negative health outcomes. [Children who are food insecure](#) are more likely to have chronic diseases, nutritional deficiencies, impaired learning in school, increased risk of developmental delays and experience emotional and behavioral challenges. They are also more likely to become hospitalized and have [increased medical costs](#).

[The WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program](#) allows families to have increased access to often expensive fresh fruits and vegetables. [Fresh fruits and vegetables](#) are essential to a well-balanced diet and help to prevent debilitating diseases such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and much more.

[One out of five US children are obese](#), and it is critical that elected officials intact programs and policies such as [Food Is Medicine](#) that help to keep children healthy. HB 6101 would help to ensure that CT's children have access to fresh fruits and vegetables, are not food insecure, and help to prevent chronic, lifelong diseases.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please reach out with questions. Sincerely,

**Molly Markowitz, MD FAAP**

Chair, Advocacy Committee

CT-American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter

Email: [molly.markowitz@yale.edu](mailto:molly.markowitz@yale.edu)

These are my personal views and do not reflect those of my employer.

