Thank you for requesting input on the revised language of S.26.

I fully support the revisions as they will make school foods healthier for children, without putting undue burdens on schools.

I've worked with school professionals nationwide starting in 2014 who now have a proven track record in eliminating unwanted additives. Free resources exist to help schools identify which school foods contain specific unwanted additives, and which don't. * As already noted, most school foods don't contain these additives, so it won't be difficult for schools to comply.

Having standards (or the possibility of them) is what drives companies to reformulate. Without them, school foods will continue to contain unwanted additives. I am hearing from other school food professionals that switching to clean label products is cost neutral or in some cases cheaper.
I understand that some oppose this legislation, fearing that new changes that will impose additional burdens on schools, who face plenty of challenges already. But that is not the experience I am hearing from schools who have eliminated synthetic dyes and other unwanted additives. For example, this 10/29/25 article in Education Week called "What a School District Discovered When Its State Banned Synthetic Dyes describes how easy and inexpensive it was to comply with the law banning dyes in school, widely quoting a child nutrition director for a West Virginia school district.

Sincerely,
Lisa Y. Lefferts, Environmental Health Consultant