



Congresswoman  
**Rosa L. DeLauro**

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*Press Release*

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### **School Lunch Program Becoming Dumping Ground for Tainted Meat**

“A disturbing aspect of the latest investigation and video footage released by the Humane Society is the likelihood that these companies slaughtered cows that were too sick or weak and then supplied the meat to the National School Lunch Program.

“This finding becomes all the more alarming when combined with reports last year of the so-called ‘E. coli loophole.’ This USDA loophole allows meat companies to cook and sell meat that has tested positive for E. coli, with the contention being that cooking destroys the bacteria. As we learned, some of this cooked meat is then provided to the National School Lunch Program.

“It appears that USDA policies are allowing slaughtering and processing plants to use the National School Lunch Program as a dumping ground for bad meat. Because children are more vulnerable to becoming very ill and even dying from eating E. coli contaminated foods, we simply cannot continue to expose them to this risk.

“I intend to examine this matter closely and consider holding a hearing to obtain more information on why these policies are in place. The USDA also should investigate these slaughterhouses immediately and the E. coli loophole should be closed.”

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