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July 25, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

On behalf of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the largest organization representing registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) and nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered (NDTRs), I write to request a meeting to learn more about USDA's recent reorganization and to share the Academy's priorities and perspective on the USDA's Food Nutrition Service mission. As you continue shaping policies that impact the health of our nation, we believe the expertise of RDNs should be actively incorporated into these discussions.

The Academy has questions regarding the implications of yesterday's reorganization announcement. We are concerned that it did not address USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and the critical resources that support national health and agricultural communities alike. These resources comprise the foundation of efforts to improve the health of the nation and support the economic viability of the farmers who produce our food. These resources highlight the essential connection between healthy food production and Americans' dietary choices, a connection highlighted by this Administration in proposals like its "MAHA food boxes".

We believe the following foundational programs must be preserved and prioritized:

- MyPlate.gov: which helps people to translate the food groups into the daily decisions they make about what to eat,

- Food Data Central: our nation's nutrient database provides a consistent and fact-based view of the nutritional value of all foods, and
- Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review (NESR): which conducts the systematic review to inform the creation of dietary guidelines.

Together, these efforts form the core of federally funded nutrition infrastructure on which countless nutrition practitioners, corporate wellness programs, community programs, food producers, restaurant operators, and others depend.

We urge the Administration to recognize and safeguard the vital role these nutrition resources play in improving national health. We strongly believe that the continuation of these resources is imperative to improving the health of Americans. We are requesting additional information to understand what the changes announced yesterday mean for these resources and the whole of our federally funded nutrition infrastructure.

Accordingly, we respectfully request a meeting at your earliest convenience to share our insights on the importance of USDA's nutrition policies, programs, data, and initiatives to ensure that nutrition remains a foundational pillar in federal agriculture and MAHA initiatives. The Academy and its members stand ready to collaborate with USDA in shaping policies that are rooted in science and designed to promote better health nationwide.

Please let us know a suitable time to connect. We appreciate your leadership and look forward to working together to advance our shared goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Deanne Brandstetter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a checkmark-like flourish at the end.

Deanne Brandstetter, MBA, RDN, CDN, FAND
President, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics