

June 13, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services
Education, and Related Agencies
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking member, House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services
Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA, and Related Agencies S-
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Andy Harris
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, FDA, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Hoeven, Ranking Member Shaheen, Chairman Harris, and Ranking Member Bishop,

Subject: A Call for Congress to Deliver on the Promise of a Healthy America

We envision a healthier nation – and world – through evidence-based nutrition programs/initiatives and the promotion of healthy eating, physical activity, and obesity control. We have made significant strides over the last decade in pursuit of this vision, but there are a variety of policy and legislative decisions in progress that currently pose a significant challenge to that vision. Any one of them on its own would create challenges. Collectively, they represent a fundamental threat to our ability to provide domestic and global food and nutrition security. On behalf of the following 20 organizations, which are committed to a world where all people thrive through the transformative power of food and nutrition, **we urge you to not support policy and legislative proposals which will irreparably harm the progress the federal government has made by investing in nutrition security.**

The House Reconciliation Bill (H.R. 1) would:

- Make significant cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which also reduces the number of students automatically eligible for free and reduced-priced healthy school meals through direct certification, reducing access to vital nutrition.
- Pause Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rules intended to ease administrative burdens, resulting in blocked beneficiary access, and halted modernizations that would improve individuals' ability to meet daily living expenses, including food and medications.
- Eliminate the Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program (which funds SNAP-Ed).

The President's FY26 budget would:

- Decrease funding for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and dramatically cut the Cash-Value Voucher/Benefit (CVV/B) benefit for fruits and vegetables.
- Decimate the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity.
- Deeply cut National Institutes of Health (NIH) research funding and eliminate United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding for the Institute of Child Nutrition.

The recession bill is also expected to codify the virtual elimination of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that, at 0.3% of the Federal budget, has for a half-century reduced maternal and child malnutrition, and driven policies and programs that have improved child survival, development, growth and health in lower- and middle-income countries, demonstrating unsurpassed American leadership and capabilities.

Nutrition and food security are central to any public health strategy. We have decades of evidence showing that nutrition interventions work. Programs like SNAP-Ed and school meals are not experiments; they're proven tools that improve health outcomes, reduce healthcare costs, and support our communities. Nutrition research is also vital – our organizations strive to collaborate with various stakeholders across sectors and disciplines to maintain transparency and scientific rigor in nutrition science.

There is overwhelming evidence that demonstrates these policy proposals will have harmful consequences to public health and none of them gets us closer to improving the health and nutrition security of Americans, which the Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture share as common goals. Whereas our current nutrition investments work. For example:

- Direct certification with Medicaid and SNAP streamlines access to free or reduced-priced school meals by automatically enrolling children from participating families without additional applications. This system effectively ensures vulnerable students get the nutrition they need while easing administrative burdens for schools.
- Nutrition education helps people make healthier choices.
 - 40% of SNAP-Ed participants increased fruit and vegetable intake and reduced consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages in 2022.¹
 - 35% of SNAP-Ed participants became more physically active in 2022.²
- For nearly 30 years, every President has requested, and Congress has provided, full funding for WIC, ensuring all eligible families can access its evidence-based food packages tailored to their needs, nutrition

¹ [SNAP-ED Works](https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/snaped-works-may2022.pdf): <https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/snaped-works-may2022.pdf>

² [SNAP-ED Works](https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/snaped-works-may2022.pdf): <https://snaped.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/snaped-works-may2022.pdf>

education, and breastfeeding support. The current proposal puts children at risk by taking healthy food off their plates.

- The CDC’s Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention programs have been responsible for monitoring the health of the U.S. population. Without them, we will not be able to track our progress over time.
 - According to the CDC, between 2018 and 2023, CDC’s Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity programs improved food access for 9 million+ people and increased opportunities for physical activity for 28 million+.³
- In 2022 and 2023, 5% of the entire NIH budget was spent on nutrition research.⁴ Cuts to this already small budget would prevent vital translational nutrition and health research from occurring.
- The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) is the only federally funded national center dedicated to supporting applied research, education and training, and technical assistance for child nutrition programs.⁵ Eliminating ICN would dismantle technical assistance infrastructure and capacity at a time when child nutrition programs face unprecedented challenges.
- USAID has consistently been, and is recognized as, the global bilateral leader in advancing policies and programs throughout the lower income world toward achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal of eliminating hunger by 2030.

We also recognize there’s still more to learn. That’s why we must protect proven solutions and continue to invest in nutrition research. Without these critical initiatives millions are at greater risk of poor health and increased hunger and food insecurity. We are not standing still while these efforts work their way through Congress. We are working in collaboration to strongly advocate for evidence-based solutions to the food and nutrition challenges our country faces.

The evidence shows us what works. Many of the proposals currently under consideration by Congress and the President do not align with proven science and are likely to have devastating consequences for individuals, families, and communities across the country and internationally.

We call on Congress to use their votes to support evidence-based food and nutrition programs. We stand ready and willing to work closely and immediately with Congress and the administration to support effective food and nutrition policies and programs that can achieve our shared goal of improved diets and health of all Americans. Merely restructuring, shrinking, or eliminating proven programs—without making new investments—will set even the most effective initiatives up to fail, with harsh and lasting consequences for the health, well-being, and economic stability of our nation, particularly for those most vulnerable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Advocate Health
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
Alliance to End Hunger

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/divisions-offices/about-the-division-of-nutrition-physical-activity-and-obesity.html#:~:text=More%20than%2028%20million%20people,to%20start%20and%20continue%20breastfeeding>

⁴ <https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/onr/nih-nutrition-report>

⁵ <https://theicn.org/about-us/>

American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP)
American Public Health Association Food and Nutrition Section
American Society for Nutrition
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Association of SNAP Nutrition Education Administrators (ASNNA)
Bread for the World
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Food Research & Action Center
Interfaith Public Health Network
National Education Association
National Farm to School Network
National WIC Association
Obesity Action Coalition
The Chef Ann Foundation