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19 September 2022

The Honorable Susan Rice  
Director, Domestic Policy Council  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ambassador Rice:

[Nourish Science](#) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to solving the nation's diet and health crisis and ensuring every child reaches the age 18 at a healthy weight. Nourish Science was founded in 2022 by Jerold Mande, Senator Bill Frist, former Surgeon General Jerome Adams, and Tom Grumbly. Together we have more than 60 years of federal public health leadership experience.

We applaud the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to food and nutrition security. We urge you to carefully consider the recommendations in these five reports authored and supported by many of the nation's leading experts and public health food and nutrition authorities:

[Freedom From Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America \(National Commission on Hunger, 2015\)](#) Recommendations from the Congressionally mandated, bipartisan, bicameral national commission to improve SNAP and child nutrition programs.

[Leading with Nutrition: Leveraging Federal Programs for Better Health \(Bipartisan Policy Center, 2018\)](#) Contains strategies for promoting healthy nutrition through public programs, developed by a bipartisan 13-member task force.

[50th Anniversary of the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health \(2020\)](#) Contains 60 recommendations aimed at achieving a healthier, more equitable, and more sustainable food system, developed by a 16-member workgroup and supported by over 40 food policy stakeholder groups.

[Strengthening National Nutrition Research \(Fleischhacker et al., 2020\)](#) Finds that nutrition funding is lacking across the federal government and outlines opportunities for further strengthening and better coordinating federal nutrition research.

[Strengthening the Public Health Impacts of SNAP \(Healthy Eating Research, 2021\)](#) Identifies policy opportunities that have the greatest potential to improve SNAP participants' nutritional status and health.

Specifically, we recommend these five immediate actions:

1. *Strengthen federal support for nutrition research by \$2 billion annually across the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research (ICHNR). Start by nominating an NIH director who will make nutrition science a top priority.*
2. *Rejuvenate FDA/FSIS (USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service) food regulation to reduce the chronic disease risk of processed foods. Support FDA/FSIS regulation of food ingredients and additives, such as sweeteners, sodium, and refined carbohydrates, and food processing that are making millions of Americans sick.*
3. *Leverage USDA's \$185 billion food & nutrition budget to focus on diet quality to ensure every child reaches 18 at a healthy weight. Modernize SNAP in the next Farm Bill to provide time-saving, delicious, inexpensive, healthy meal options for the over 40 million participating Americans. Make nutrition security and diet-quality core objectives of SNAP. Promote healthier eating patterns through incentive and disincentive programs, healthier retail environments, and an effective SNAP-Education program. Issue an annual national nutrition insecurity report.*
4. *Appoint a Deputy Assistant to the President for food, nutrition, & health at the White House Domestic Policy Council who will co-chair the ICHNR expanded to cover nutrition policy & research.*
5. *Explore consolidating food & nutrition policies and programs at a renamed U.S. Department of Food & Agriculture including a new Food, Nutrition & Health mission area that combines FNS, FSIS, CFSAN/FDA (Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition), and DNPAO/CDC (Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, Obesity).*

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Jerold Mande  
CEO, Nourish Science