

**Sen. Susan Collins, Chair**  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

**Sen. Patty Murray, Vice Chair**  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

**Rep. Tom Cole, Chair**  
House Committee on Appropriations

**Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member**  
House Committee on Appropriations

**Sen. John Hoeven, Chair**  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

**Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Ranking Member**  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

**Rep. Andy Harris, Chair**  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

**Rep. Sanford Bishop, Jr., Ranking  
Member**  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

cc:

Sen. John Boozman, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry

Rep. Glenn Thompson, Chair, House Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Angie Craig, Ranking Member, House Committee on Agriculture

Sen. John Thune, Majority Leader, United States Senate

Sen. Charles Schumer, Minority Leader, United States Senate

Rep. Mike Johnson, Speaker, United States House of Representatives

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives

Dear Chairs, Vice Chair, Ranking Members, and Congressional Leaders,

The National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity (NANA) is the largest nutrition advocacy coalition in the country, with more than 520 member organizations advocating for a healthier food environment. These organizations represent diverse sectors, including program operators, researchers, and policy experts. For more than two decades, NANA members have worked at the national, state, and local levels to improve the nutritional quality of the food environment, including foods made available through federal nutrition programs.

The undersigned organizations request that Congress deny the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) requested reorganization process, under the authority of Public Law 119-37.<sup>1,2</sup> Secondly, we urge Congress to include Sec. 716 in the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Senate Agriculture appropriations bill, as it was in the House FY27 Agriculture appropriations bill, and the final conferenced bill, or similar language prohibiting the Secretary of Agriculture from using allocated funds to reorganize or relocate offices or programs, eliminate programs, or relocate personnel without first receiving written approval from Congress.<sup>3</sup>

As the administrator of sixteen federal nutrition programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is the foundation of our nation's nutrition policy and hunger relief services. These programs rely on experienced federal staff, regional support, and coordination between USDA and program implementing agencies. Thus, the dramatic staffing and organizational changes announced by USDA may lead to a loss of critical agency staff, expertise, relationships, and coordination that will take years to rebuild and will have ripple effects on households, communities, and schools. We urge Congress to intercede and halt these changes for the following reasons, to ensure families in the U.S. are not left hungry and farmers' bottom lines are not negatively impacted:

1. **Loss of staff and expertise:** The civil servants at FNS are charged with the critical work of feeding our country, yet USDA makes no visible attempt to retain FNS staff, thus deprioritizing institutional knowledge. At a minimum, staff efficiency will be temporarily limited as they act to address this relocation requirement-- all while being grossly understaffed after over 15,000 USDA employees, or 15 percent of staff, have already voluntarily elected deferred resignation.<sup>4</sup> In the worst case, only a limited number of employees will relocate, which may deepen the loss of institutional knowledge while drastically complicating and increasing the workload for the remaining workforce. Additional taxpayer funds may also be required to recruit new, but less acclimated, staff located near the new hubs. The detrimental impacts of these dynamics could deal a devastating blow to critical food programs, harming U.S. families and farmers.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. "USDA Announces Actions to Better Serve States, Nutrition Program Recipients, and the American Taxpayer." Press Release No. USDA-0062.26. (2026, Apr 30). <https://www.fns.usda.gov/newsroom/usda-0062.26>. Accessed May 29, 2026.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Congress. *Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026*, Pub. L. 119-37, § 716, 119th Cong. (2025, Nov 12).

<sup>3</sup> Pub. L. 119-37, § 716.

<sup>4</sup> Fields, Ashleigh. "At Least 15,000 USDA Employees Accept Voluntary Resignation Offer." *The Hill*. (2025, May 3). <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5281373-agriculture-department-buyouts-resignations-trump/>. Accessed May 29, 2026.

2. **Loss of relationships:** Decentralization weakens collaboration among FNS staff, Congress, and external partners, limiting progress, ingenuity, and cohesion among operations. A dispersed workforce makes it more difficult to maintain these relationships, reducing opportunities for meaningful engagement and oversight.

3. **Reduced collaboration:** State agencies and governments rely on close collaboration with FNS regional and national office staff to support program administration like management and disbursement of program resources, guidance and technical assistance to implement policy changes, oversight to support program integrity operations, and more. FNS staff must work closely with state agencies to monitor program costs and ensure appropriate allocation of funds across states. This work requires a high degree of skill, experience, and collaboration with state staff. Staff loss in FNS national offices can have devastating consequences, leaving FNS without the ability to conduct core functions. This is particularly concerning as SNAP undergoes major administrative changes outlined in H.R. 1, and WIC just finalized updates to its food packages in April.<sup>5</sup>

4. **Ripple effects:** FNS publishes and promotes nutrition guidance, related program standards, and corresponding technical assistance for implementation. Understaffing and loss of expertise at a time when USDA is expected to update nutrition standards for school meals, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and WIC may hinder successful implementation, impeding the country's vision for healthier federal food programs. These changes may also undermine transparency by impeding operations for a range of critical informational resources such as FoodData Central and the Evidence Systematic Review (NESR), hindering the availability and quality of information utilized by researchers, industry, and the general public for data analysis and reports as well as personal food choices.<sup>6,7</sup>

In conclusion, we write to express serious concerns regarding USDA's decision to reorganize and disperse FNS administrative staff into regional hubs across the country rather than maintaining a centralized presence in Washington, D.C. Due to loss of staff and expertise, loss of relationships, reduced collaboration, and further ripple effects, we are concerned that this reorganization will negatively impact the millions of people who benefit from the sixteen federal nutrition programs.

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<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. "Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Revisions in the WIC Food Packages." 89 Fed. Reg. 28488 (Apr. 18, 2024).

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service. FoodData Central. <https://fdc.nal.usda.gov/>

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture. Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review. <https://nesr.usda.gov/>

Congress has the authority to deny this proposed reorganization under P.L. 119-37, Sec. 716 and prevent the harms it would bring. We urge Congress to leverage this authority to oppose USDA's reorganization.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to your leadership on protecting the integrity of USDA and the quality of the critical nutrition programs they operate that millions of people rely on.

Signed,

Alliance to End Hunger  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Nutrition  
CACFP Roundtable  
Center for Ecoliteracy  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Children's HealthWatch  
Chef Ann Foundation  
Farm Sanctuary  
Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)  
Healthy Schools Campaign  
Louisiana Food Policy Council  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National WIC Association  
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest  
Nourish Colorado  
Partnership for a Healthier America