

March 12, 2026

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chair
House Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Angie Craig
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable John Boozman
Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry
United States Senate

Dear Chairs Thompson and Boozman, and Ranking Members Craig and Klobuchar,

The 63 undersigned organizations write to express strong opposition to proposed changes to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) development process included in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (H.R. 7567), and in the Dietary Guidelines Reform Act of 2025 (S. 1129 / H.R. 2326).^{1,2}

The DGA are foundational to public health, influencing not only individual dietary choices but also informing guidelines for federal nutrition and safety net programs.³ These programs include the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); approximately 30 million children participate in school meals each year and 6.7 million people participate in WIC each month, demonstrating the broad reach of the DGA.^{4,5} **The bill's proposed changes would undermine the scientific integrity of the DGA, harm public health outcomes, and exacerbate health inequities.**

We are deeply concerned that the bill's proposed changes to the DGA process would:

1. Undermine Scientific Integrity: The DGA have historically been and should continue to be based on rigorous scientific research and expert consensus.⁶ In contrast, the proposed changes appear to be driven by political and industry influence rather than sound science. Half of the proposed "Independent Advisory Board" would be appointed by the U.S. Departments of

¹ H.R.7567 - 119th Congress (2025-2026): Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026. (2026, Feb 13). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/7567/all-info>

² S.1129 - 119th Congress (2025-2026): Dietary Guidelines Reform Act of 2025. (2025, Mar 25). <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/1129>

³ Center for Science in the Public Interest. Reach of Dietary Guidelines for Americans: CSPI policy scan results. Updated January 2026. <https://www.cspi.org/DGAreach>

⁴ Food and Nutrition Service. National School Lunch Program: Participation and Lunches Served. Data as of February 13, 2026. <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/slsummar-2.pdf>

⁵ U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. Food and Nutrition Assistance: WIC Program. Updated July 2025. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/wic-program/> Accessed March 10, 2026

⁶ Seiler, Jessie. How are the Dietary Guidelines developed? (2025, Jul 30). <https://www.cspi.org/DGAC>

Agriculture and Health and Human Services and half by Members of Congress, resulting in an explicitly politicized group rather than scientific experts chosen for their qualifications. This is problematic for the scientific integrity of the DGA because this Board would generate the scientific questions to be examined by the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC). Therefore, this Board would define the list of topics included in the DGAC's review of evidence and limit what is ultimately included in the DGA.

Additionally, updating the DGA every 5 years is a rewarding undertaking, and we oppose language (such as "as necessary") that does not set a defined timeline for a regular and robust review of the scientific literature to inform evidence-based guidelines. Without this regularly scheduled review, we run the risk that updates to the DGA would be delayed indefinitely.

2. Harm Public Health: The DGA process must retain scientific integrity, ensuring that its recommendations fully reflect the preponderance of scientific evidence. For this reason, the 2025 DGA should not be designated as the "Controlling Report." Departures from evidence-based recommendations to reduce rates of diet-related diseases (including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and certain cancers) could increase the prevalence rates of these diseases. Because the DGA form a critical component of so many wide-reaching policies and programs, any negative health impacts will be projected across the US population, increasing long-term healthcare costs.

3. Exacerbate Health Inequities: The DGA are particularly crucial for socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, including children, the elderly, and low-income families who rely on federal nutrition programs guided by the DGA. Compromising these standards will exacerbate inequitable access to healthy food and increase the risk of diet-related disease for communities that are already disproportionately impacted.

Another problematic provision would limit the questions the DGAC can consider; their report would be prohibited from including: "Taxation, social welfare policies, purchases under Federal feeding programs, food and agricultural production practices, food labeling, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or culture, or regulations relating to nutrition." **This language would prohibit consideration of topics that impact dietary choices across diverse cultures, races, and ethnicities.** It would also prevent discussions about the DGA impact on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the WIC food packages, and sustainability of the food system, needed now more than ever.

We urge Members of Congress to reject the proposed changes to the DGA process in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 and to uphold our government's commitment to evidence-based nutritional guidance. Ensuring that our dietary recommendations remain scientifically sound and free from undue influence is essential to safeguarding the health of our nation and our place as a global leader in public health nutrition.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We look forward to your leadership in protecting the integrity of the DGA and promoting the health and well-being of our nation.

Signed,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

ActivEnergy Nutrition LLC

Advocates for Better Children's Diets

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Heart Association

American Society for Nutrition

An Ounce of Nutrition

Animal Protection Voters New Mexico

Balanced

Celiac Disease Foundation

Center for Biological Diversity

Center for Science in the Public Interest

Ceres Community Project

Changelab Solutions

Chef Ann Foundation

Children's Council of San Francisco

Chilis on Wheels

Coalition for Healthy School Food

Colorado Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Community Food Advocates

Daily Dietetics, LLC

DC Veg Week

Defeat Malnutrition Today

Dental Group San Diego

Farm Forward

Farm Sanctuary

Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)

Health Care Without Harm

Healthy Food America

Healthy Schools Campaign

Just Serve LCC

Kala Nutrition, LLC

Let's Love Food Again

Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP

McCrea & Associates, Nutrition Management Systems

National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Center for Health Research

National Education Association

National Farm to School Network

National League for Nursing

National WIC Association

Nebraska Appleseed

Nutrition Edge Communications

Partnership for a Healthier America

Pennsylvania Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics (PAND)

Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine

Pinnacle Prevention

Plant Forward Endurance Nutrition

Plant Powered Metro New York

Pro-Animal Future

SanDiego350 - Plant Forward Team

Slow Food USA

Social Compassion in Legislation

Society of Behavioral Medicine

Strategic Action For Animals

Striving to Serve Others

The Humane League

True Health Initiative

Union of Concerned Scientists

Voters For Animal Rights

Wholesome Minnesota