

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2022

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

Dear Ambassador Rice,

As key stakeholders in ensuring the government plays its appropriate role in the fight to end hunger and improve the health of all Americans, we have watched with interest the developments around the second national White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health (Conference), set to take place on September 28, 2022.

The Biden administration has pledged the event will pay homage to the original 1969 Nixon Administration Conference, which led to the modernizing of federal food assistance programs and to important reforms to food labeling requirements. The upcoming Conference is intended to spotlight principal issues related to nutrition, chronic disease, physical wellbeing and improving food availability for all Americans, especially underserved populations. When the originating legislation, H.R. 5724, *The White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger and Health Act*, was first introduced in October 2021, the bill was prescriptive in establishing a clear, bipartisan process—both before, during and after the Conference—to ensure government and private stakeholders at the national, state, and local level were given a real opportunity to provide input and shape the policies related to the planning and execution of the Conference.

What began with a promise to engage stakeholders in a bipartisan process has deteriorated into a partisan gathering lacking the direction and clarity needed to drive significant, long-lasting change. For the Conference policy recommendations to be considered bipartisan, the White House should have meaningfully engaged a variety of stakeholders, including Congressional colleagues from both sides of the aisle at all stages of the Conference. At a time when food prices continue to soar under record-high inflation rates, and while an external investigation into FDA's food safety centers—ordered by FDA Commissioner Califf himself—remains underway, it is critical this process involve all appropriate policymakers and stakeholders in any policy goals emerging from the Conference.

The impact of the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health will depend largely on actions taken after September 28. Moving forward, we plan to take an active oversight role, given our seats on committees of jurisdiction over the recommendations likely to stem from the Conference, as Congress and the administration deliberate how to move forward to ensure we are all supporting the goals of ending hunger and improving nutrition in ways that make sound policy sense for all Americans.

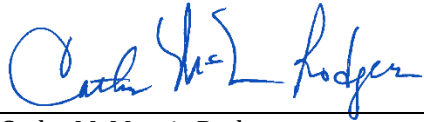
Sincerely,



Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture



Virginia Foxx  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Labor



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Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce



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Andy Harris, M.D.  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations



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James Comer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform