

February 23, 2026

Senator Boozman
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, & Forestry

Rep. Thompson
Chair, House Committee
on Agriculture

Senator Klobuchar
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture,
Nutrition, & Forestry

Rep. Craig
Ranking Member, House Committee
on Agriculture

Senator Cassidy
Chair, Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, & Pensions

Rep. Walberg
Chair, House Committee
on Education & Workforce

Senator Sanders
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, & Pensions

Rep. Scott
Ranking Member, House Committee
on Education & Workforce

RE: Organizations Call for Information on 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans Development Process

Dear Honorable Senators Boozman, Klobuchar, Cassidy, Sanders; and Representatives Thompson, Craig, Walberg, and Scott,

The undersigned organizations are writing to request more information on the process and development of the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) that were published on January 7, 2026. As you know, many federal nutrition programs are required to follow the DGA recommendations in their meal program, food package, and/or nutrition education that include but are not limited to:

- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Head Start Program
- Summer Food Service Program
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Food distribution programs that serve schools, households, and Native American Indian reservations
- Older Americans Act programs including Meals on Wheels

The Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 mandates Congressional and public notice of advisory committees, that meetings are public and that a charter is filed before committee action. Title III of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990

established a report and review process for the development of the DGA to include public comments. Typically, the scientific review is conducted by the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) and their Scientific Report with recommendations is sent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to inform the final policy. The Scientific Report is made available for public comment through both written comment and public meetings, and those comments are considered by USDA and HHS when drafting the final DGA. Additionally, Congressional committees of jurisdiction that oversee USDA and HHS have been in communication with these departments during the development process. As a result of these statutes, this process ensures oversight and public transparency on the rigor of the evidence considered and how the resultant nutrition recommendations were decided.

We understand that, in addition to the above process, a separate review of the 2025 DGAC Scientific Report was commissioned by USDA and HHS. This separate review resulted in a Scientific Foundation document which USDA and HHS have stated was utilized as the evidentiary foundation for the 2025-2030 DGA. It is unclear how the opportunity for comment on the Scientific Foundation document was provided to the public. Since the publication of this iteration of the DGA, several organizations have received questions from their members on how to provide nutrition education and/or implement the guidelines in areas that are not aligned with past DGA recommendations or the recent 2025 DGAC Scientific Report. Healthcare providers, among others, want to minimize confusion and maintain trust in the guidelines and the process in which they are developed. Additionally, as healthcare and other public health and consumer product organizations have an important role to play in the implementation of the DGA, policymakers should ensure the opportunity to comment on all bases of the DGA so that their valuable insight can be taken into account. **These organizations agree with this administration's goals on transparency, which is why we have questions about how the DGA development process unfolded after submission of the 2025 DGAC Scientific Report.**

In recent years, Congress took action to address concerns around the transparency of the DGA process. Congress responded to stakeholder concerns around the 2015 DGAC Scientific Report, including addressing transparency by directing the National Academies (NASEM) in the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act to "study the entire process used to establish the Advisory Committee for the Dietary Guidelines and develop the Guidelines." This led to two NASEM reports that provided recommendations for improving the transparency of the process for selecting the DGAC and the remaining aspects of the DGA development process in 2017. Recommendations included having a separate group to identify DGA topics at the start of the process and providing explanations for any DGA divergences from the DGAC report at the end of the process. Following these reports, the 2020-2025 DGA cycle adopted many of NASEM's recommendations, such as allowing public input on the scientific topics/questions and issuing rationale for partial inclusions of DGAC advice.

The undersigned organizations are asking Congressional committees of oversight to inquire with USDA and HHS and share a public announcement on the findings to the following questions:

- Why was a separate Scientific Foundation document created in the last year to develop the DGA rather than exclusive use of the DGAC Scientific Report?
- Was the process to utilize the Scientific Foundation document as the basis for the DGA shared with Congressional committees prior to the publication of the DGA?
- How was the public notified of who was nominated to serve on the panel charged with the development of the Scientific Foundation document and appendix?
- Where was the charter of the Scientific Foundation published?
- Where is the Federal Register notice of the meetings of the Scientific Foundation and the formation of this group?
- How were conflicts of interest and disclosures shared with the public on those who participated in the development of the Scientific Foundation?
- What criteria were used in the determination of which recommendations from the DGAC Scientific Report would be rejected versus those accepted, and how was the public informed of these criteria? Was there a Federal Register notice and public comment opportunity for their recommendations?
- When was the opportunity, if at all, for the public to provide comments to the Scientific Foundation committee selection and/or public nomination, questions to review, methodologies, and then document?
- Was progress on the development of the Scientific Foundation document made available for public review? If so, when and where? Where are the scientific questions for their review, methods, agendas, and notes from their meetings?

We appreciate your investigation into the 2025-2030 DGA development process and look forward to learning about your findings.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Better Children's Diets

American Association of Bariatric Counselors

American Society for Nutrition

Association for Dressings and Sauces

Barbara Roberts, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist

Berry Street

Calorie Control Council

Center for Science in the Public Interest

Color of Gastrointestinal Illnesses

Defeat Malnutrition Today

Dietitian Driven LLC

Dr. Carol Byrd-Bredbenner, Distinguished Professor of Nutrition, Rutgers University, Member of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee

Dr. Chris Taylor, Member of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee
Dr. Fatima Cody Stanford, Member of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee
Dr. Joanne Slavin, Professor, College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences,
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities; Member of the 2010 Dietary Guidelines Advisory
Committee
Dr. Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan, Professor of Medicine, Director, Center for Indigenous Health
Research and Policy, Oklahoma State University; Member of the 2025 Dietary
Guidelines Advisory Committee
Dr. William H. Dietz, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University
George Washington University Institute for Food Safety and Nutrition Security
Harbor Health Services
Independent Bakers Association
International Food Additives Council
Maria Lourdes Nichols, Registered Dietitian Nutritionist
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Consumers League
National Pasta Association
National Seasoning Manufacturers Association (NSMA)
Neighborly Care Network Meals on Wheels Pinellas County
Nourish Colorado
Providence Health and Services
Providence Medical Group Endocrinology Diabetes and Nutrition
Rhode Island Nutrition Therapy
Rutgers University
Rutgers University, Department of Nutritional Sciences
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
Sound Bites Nutrition, LLC
The Good Food Institute
Theresa Kujawski RD, CNSC, Clinical Registered Dietitian
University of Rhode Island