

June 19, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol, Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Appropriations for Agriculture,
Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Sam Farr
Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Appropriations for
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Appropriations for Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Appropriations for Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

Re: Agriculture and Labor/HHS Appropriations Riders on Dietary Guidelines

Dear Appropriations Committee Member,

As leaders in public health, nutrition and related fields, the undersigned organizations write to convey their shared alarm concerning the Dietary Guidelines-related riders on the Agriculture and Labor/HHS appropriations bills currently under consideration in the House of Representatives and to request that the riders be removed from the bill.

We strongly oppose the inclusion of these riders, which would severely curtail the development of the 2015 DGA. The Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee was convened by the Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services (HHS) for the purpose of developing diet and health recommendations for Americans based on updated science since the release of the last Guidelines in 2010. The Committee used the same evidentiary standards as previous DGA Committees to compile recommendations for Guidelines. The riders undercut the entire Guidelines development process by requiring an unprecedentedly stringent standard of evidence and limiting recommendations to “diet and nutrient intake” only.

In effect, the riders would limit the 2015 Committee by excising even those recommendations supported by ample science in the Committee’s expert, informed judgment. They would prevent the 2015 DGA from reflecting any updated science on the disease-preventing benefits of a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains. They would also exclude any updates to the 2010

Guidelines on the benefits of exercise, as physical activity is outside the purview of the erroneous “diet and nutrient intake” limitation.

One-third of Americans are presently overweight or obese, and one-half suffer from chronic diet-related disease. Given the enormity of this problem, the 2015 DGA should provide the most comprehensive diet and health advice possible and reflect the most updated science.

We urge you to remove the “Grade 1:Strong” and “nutrient and diet intake” limitation language in the appropriations bill and to allow the full range of recommendations put forth by the 2015 Dietary Guidance Advisory Committee to be considered in creating 2015 Guidelines.

Sincerely,