

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 8, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins,  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Madam Secretary,

We write to express our deep disappointment and serious concern regarding USDA's announced intent to reorganize, relocate, and rename the Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services mission area.<sup>1</sup> Millions of Americans, including children, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities, depend on the federal nutrition programs administered by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to put food on their tables. SNAP, WIC, school meals, and after-school and summer nutrition programs require a deeply experienced, well-staffed agency to function. At a time when food prices remain elevated, and families across the country are struggling, this reorganization moves in exactly the wrong direction.

FNS has already lost nearly 30 percent of its workforce since the start of this administration, primarily due to the dismissal of probationary employees, deferred resignation, and early retirement offers.<sup>2</sup> This reorganization will accelerate that attrition further, leaving critical nutrition programs even more dangerously short-staffed at precisely the moment when they are needed most. These disruptions are likely to be long-lasting, as relocation to new geographic areas will create additional challenges for recruiting and retaining a strong workforce.

The plan to scatter program staff across new geographic hubs — moving SNAP operations to Indianapolis, Child Nutrition Programs to Dallas, and other functions to Kansas City, Raleigh, and Denver — eliminates the regional expertise and state relationships that make these programs work. Currently, each FNS regional office maintains dedicated teams for SNAP, child nutrition, and civil rights compliance with deep knowledge of the states and communities they serve. Under this new structure, states will be forced to coordinate with multiple offices in different cities rather than a single assigned regional team. This would increase administrative burdens and slow the federal response to local program needs.

Unfortunately, we have seen the consequences of this type of proposal before. When the USDA relocated most staff at two of its research agencies to Kansas City in 2019, the result was disruptions in work, reduced productivity, a lack of diversity, and a mass departure of staff.<sup>3</sup> This

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2026/04/30/usda-announces-actions-better-serve-states-nutrition-program-recipient-and-american-taxpayer>

<sup>2</sup> <https://data.opm.gov/explore-data/analytics/workforce-size-and-composition>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-104709#:~:text=Fast%20Facts,to%20select%20an%20appropriate%20site.>

reorganization would replicate those same circumstances on a far grander scale across every major federal nutrition program simultaneously. The human cost of this reorganization cannot be ignored.

Furthermore, this announcement appears to disregard the directive from Congress included in the FY 2026 appropriations law, which requires the Secretary of Agriculture to notify and receive approval from Congress before reorganizing or relocating offices or employees (P.L. 119-37, Sec. 716).<sup>4</sup> USDA should not move forward without full transparency and congressional approval.

In light of these serious concerns, we respectfully request answers to the following questions:

1. What is USDA's projected attrition rate resulting from this reorganization, and why was an attrition analysis excluded from the cost-benefit review?
2. How many employees will be impacted at each specific FNS regional office?
3. How many employees does USDA expect to have at each hub and retailer compliance and operations office after the relocation? And what are the number of employees needed at each FNA hub and office to carry out normal operations and be considered fully staffed?
4. Will USDA be able to fill vacancies resulting from this reorganization and relocation during the ongoing USDA hiring freeze?
5. In the cost-benefit review, what was the cost associated with renaming the Food and Nutrition Service the Food and Nutrition Administration? If the costs related to renaming were not evaluated in the cost-benefit review, please provide the expected renaming costs from a separate analysis.
6. How does USDA intend to maintain regional program expertise and relationships with state agencies under the new hub structure?
7. What specific steps will USDA take to ensure states do not face increased administrative burdens as a result of coordinating with multiple geographically dispersed hubs?
8. How will USDA ensure that regional civil rights compliance functions are preserved and adequately staffed under the new structure?
9. What is the projected timeline for each relocation, and how will USDA ensure program continuity during the transition?
10. What consultations, if any, were conducted with state nutrition program administrators, anti-hunger advocates, or program participants prior to announcing this reorganization?
11. How was feedback from current FNS employees on the proposed reorganization incorporated in the process of developing this plan?
12. How was feedback from the public comment period and from Tribal consultations conducted at the end of last year incorporated in developing this plan?

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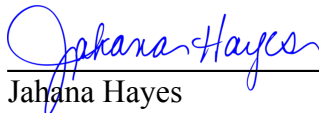
<sup>4</sup> <https://www.congress.gov/119/plaws/publ37/PLAW-119publ37.pdf>

13. How does USDA intend to comply with the congressional notification and approval requirements under P.L. 119-37, Sec. 716, before proceeding with this reorganization?
14. How does the elimination of the current program-specific associate administrator roles and replacement with deputy administrator roles that will cover specific duties across all programs (benefits and integrity, research and regulations, operations and compliance, etc.) effective or efficient given the vast differences in how many of the nutrition programs function?
15. What is the rationale for eliminating the Under Secretary's office, including both the Under Secretary and Deputy Under Secretary positions?
16. If each "hub" location will now only host program staff for one or more specific programs, what is the purpose of the FNA hub and state assignments included on the organization chart shared with staff on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>?
  - a. Why is no hub assigned to Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands?
  - b. How do states get assistance from relevant program staff if the program in question is not located at the hub assigned to them?

The families who rely on SNAP, school meals, WIC, and other federal nutrition assistance programs cannot afford disruptions caused by a poorly planned reorganization. Proceeding without fully understanding the human and programmatic costs of this plan, without congressional approval, would be a failure of your responsibilities to the American people. We urge you to halt implementation of this reorganization and facilitate a transparent process that includes meaningful consultation with Congress, state agencies, program staff, and the communities these programs serve.

We appreciate your consideration of these requests and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



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Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress  
Ranking Member,  
Subcommittee on Nutrition  
and Foreign Agriculture




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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



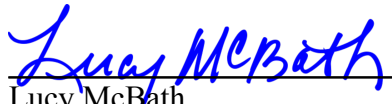
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Josh Riley  
Member of Congress



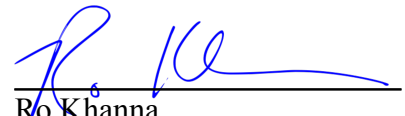
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Shontel M. Brown  
Vice Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture



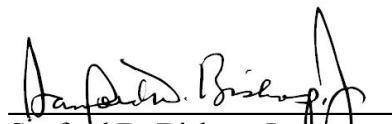
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Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



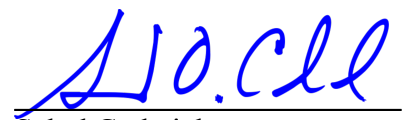
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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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



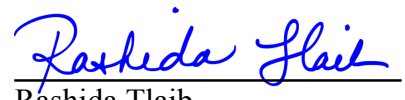
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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



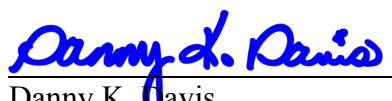
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Yasamin Ansari  
Member of Congress




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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress




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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress




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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



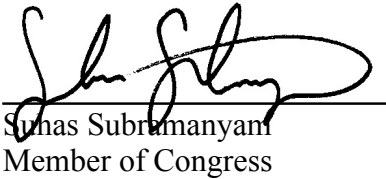
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Angie Craig  
Member of Congress  
Ranking Member, Committee  
on Agriculture



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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



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Supas Subramanyam  
Member of Congress



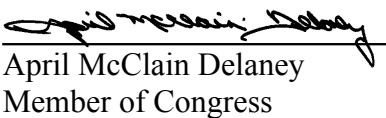
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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



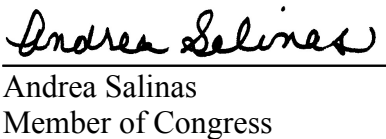
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Jill Tokuda  
Member of Congress



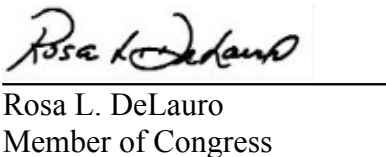
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April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



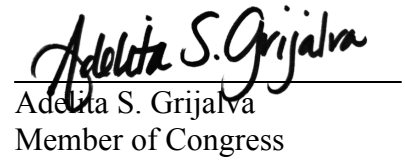
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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



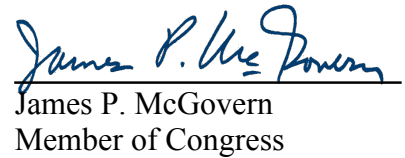
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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



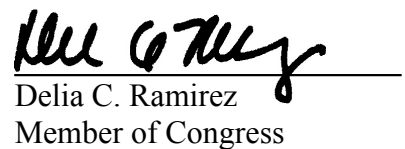
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Adelita S. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



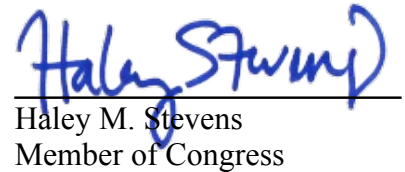
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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



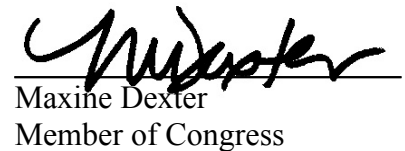
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Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



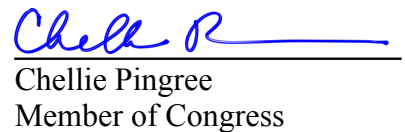
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Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



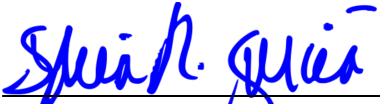
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

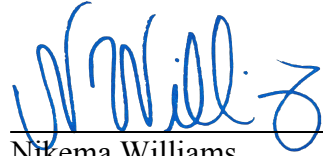


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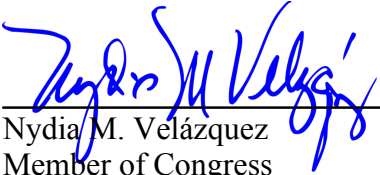
Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



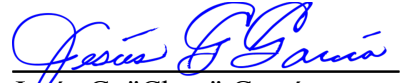
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



Analilia Mejia  
Member of Congress



Cleo Fields  
Member of Congress



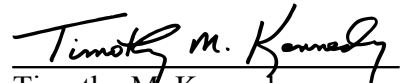
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



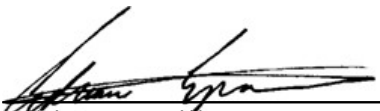
Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Dave Min  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



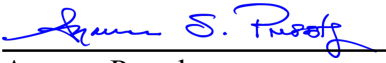
Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



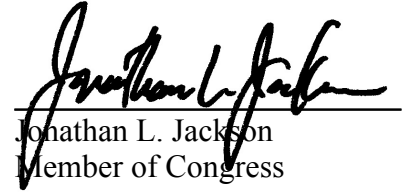
Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



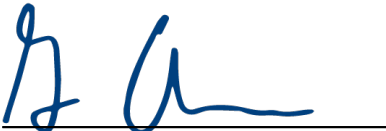
Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress