

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We, the undersigned groups, are writing to express our support for providing state and local food safety regulatory agencies with fiscal certainty and security by specifying a line item within the fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriation for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

As you are likely aware, FDA is currently restructuring its human foods program to streamline operations and better fulfill its mission of food safety protection. While many of the proposed

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and local food safety agencies frequently collaborate with FDA while conducting food processing, produce, and retail inspections. They also perform vital roles of education and outreach for the necessary prevention-focused infrastructure of an integrated food safety system that is required by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). They assist in identifying potential illness outbreaks, investigating illnesses, and effectuating product removals through recalls. Further, FDA often requests the use of state authority to expedite product recalls and removals, closures, embargoes, and similar actions. In total, states conduct 50 percent of human

local programs to continue this level of partnership and greatly reduce the activity of food protection provided by these front-line programs.

A consistent and predictable funding mechanism for state and local programs is needed. As such, we urge you to include a line item detailing specific funding for state and local food safety issues in your budget allocation for FDA to ensure state and local programs have the budgetary certainty needed to carry out their work.

Sincerely,

Donna Garren, Executive Vice President of Science and Policy, American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI)

Austin Therrell, Executive Director, Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO)

Steve Mandernach, Executive Director, Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)

Peter Kyriacopoulos, Chief Policy Officer, Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)

Jeffrey O. Ekoma, Senior Director, Government Affairs, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

Sarah Sorscher, Director of Regulatory Affairs, Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)

David McSwane, Executive Director, Conference for Food Protection (CFP)

Sarah Gallo, Vice President of Product Policy, Consumer Brands

Ted McKinney, CEO, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)

Casey M. McCue, Chair, National Conference of Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS)

Doug Farquhar, Director of Government Affairs, National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

Dana Brooks, President and CEO, Pet Food Institute

Mitzi D. Baum, CEO, Stop Foodborne Illness

De Ann Davis, Sr. Vice President of Science, Western Growers Association