

March 31, 2014

The Honorable Harold Rogers,
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, Room H-305
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski,
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, Room S-128
Washington, DC 20514

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey,
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations,
Minority
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby,
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations,
Minority
The Capitol, Room S-146A
Washington, DC 20514

Dear Chairman Rogers and Mikulski and Ranking Members Lowey and Shelby:

As organizations committed to protecting the public's health, we would like to draw your attention to the critical need for enhanced funding to fully implement the regulatory and oversight activities conducted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in support of a safer, more reliable food supply.

Foodborne illness remains a major public health threat. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that contaminated food causes 48 million foodborne illnesses, 128,000 hospitalizations, and as many as 3,000 deaths nationwide every year. These preventable illnesses inflict untold suffering and drive avoidable health system-related costs of about \$70 billion each year.

In 2011, Congress wisely enacted the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), to strengthen and modernize the regulatory, administrative and information technology systems that oversee and protect our food supply. FSMA fundamentally changed the FDA's approach to addressing food safety, allowing the agency to focus on *preventing* food safety problems before they make people sick, rather than reacting to illnesses after they occur, and expanding oversight in high-risk areas like overseas processing facilities and U.S. ports. Citizens understand why these improvements are so important to protecting public health, and public opinion polling shows that this modernized food safety system is supported by more than three-quarters of Americans surveyed.

Additional funding provided by your committees since FSMA's enactment has begun to make a difference as FDA continues to finalize the rules and build the systems it needs to implement the new law, but much more work remains to be done before our food supply is truly safe. As you prepare your budgets for Fiscal Year 2015 and begin the appropriations process in earnest, we strongly urge you to meet the President's request for FDA food safety funding to

continue FSMA implementation in the year ahead and to robustly fund this vital national priority.

We thank you for the contributions you have made over the past three years. We welcome your continuing interest in this important public health investment and look forward to your support for FDA food safety in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)
American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
American Academy of Sports Dieticians and Nutritionists (AASDN)
American College of Preventive Medicine (ACMP)
American Nurses Association (ANA)
American Public Health Association (APHA)
American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN)
Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA)
Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)
Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN)
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)
National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
National Indian Health Board (NIHB)
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
(NASPGHAN)
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS)
Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (SGNA)
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Trust for America's Health