



American Society for Nutrition
Excellence in Nutrition Research and Practice
www.nutrition.org



Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics

August 22, 2018

The Honorable Michael Conaway
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
& Forestry
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
& Forestry
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts, Chairman Conaway, Ranking Member Stabenow, and Ranking Member Peterson:

As you work toward a conference agreement for the 2018 Farm Bill, the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) write to encourage your support for nutrition research and education. While there are several important nutrition-related provisions throughout both the House and Senate versions of the Farm Bill, we specifically applaud the efforts in the Senate's *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018* that support the valuable role of nutrition research and education.

The Senate bill's Research Title would make significant and needed federal investments in food, nutrition and agricultural research through both mandatory and discretionary U.S. Department of Agriculture programs, particularly the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). The Senate bill also provides additional funding support for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR). These funding increases are critical to advancing scientific discoveries in nutrition that ensure our nation's health and wellness.

The Senate bill's Nutrition Title protects the integrity of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), while also improving the program for seniors and people with disabilities, and modernizing systems and technology. The Senate bill affirms the value of SNAP Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and would further strengthen these vital education programs by encouraging greater coordination between the two. Additionally, the legislation expands employment and training pilot projects and take steps to ensure programs meet state and local workforce needs.

These are just a few of the many nutrition-related provisions the Senate's *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018* would support. Your committed and ongoing efforts to complete an on-time farm bill that supports these critical nutrition research and education provisions are

appreciated by ASN and AND. We look forward to successful passage of the farm bill and thank you again for your continued commitment to nutrition research and education.

Sincerely,

American Society for Nutrition

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics