



June 22, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on LHHS
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on LHHS
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on LHHS
United States Senate Washington,
DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on LHHS
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Richard Shelby, Chairwoman Nita M. Lowey, Chairman Blunt, Chairwoman DeLauro, Vice Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Kay Granger, Ranking Member Murray and Ranking Member Cole:

We are writing in support of the request by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (the Academy), and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO). It is our understanding that their request would have a direct impact on reducing racial health disparities and improving health status for communities of color.

As you know, African Americans and Latinos have been disproportionately impacted by infections and deaths from COVID-19. African Americans account for 13 percent of the population but 33 percent of hospitalizations from COVID-19. In Washington State, Latinos make up 13 percent of the population but 31 percent of COVID-19 cases. In Utah, Latinos account for 14 percent of the population but 38.8 percent of COVID-19 cases. This trend in health disparities is nationwide.

The death rate from COVID-19 has been especially cruel on people with underlying health conditions, including obesity, diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure. Many of these conditions are a proximate result of poor nutrition, poverty, reduced access to health care, healthy foods and safe opportunities to be active. These health disparities have been confined to communities of color where inequities continue to worsen.

The Academy and NAFEO seek funding to increase the numbers of African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and Asian Americans in allied health education programs, including nutrition and dietetics. Currently, African Americans account for only two percent of registered dietitian nutritionists and Latinos only three percent. This initiative would allow for increased numbers of minority health professionals to provide culturally competent nutrition counseling in communities of color.

Additionally, the initiative seeks to increase the numbers of young people of color going into health allied careers.

We are proud to support the Academy and NAFEO's request for \$310 million to help reduce persistent health disparities and mitigate the spread and deaths from COVID-19.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Alliance for Aging Research
American Institute for Cancer Research
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Public Health Association
American Society for Nutrition
American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition
Asian Pacific Development Center
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists
Association of State Public Health Nutritionist
Center for Communications, Health and the Environment
Coalition for Healthy School Food
College of Saint Elizabeth
Common Threads
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Council on Black Health
Defeat Malnutrition Today
Institute of Food Technologist
LunchAssist
Meals on Wheels America
National advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepard
National Association of Social Workers
National Athletic Trainers' Association

National Baptist Convention
National Foundation to Senior End Hunger
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Lactation Consultant Alliance
National WIC Association
Nutrition Policy Institute, University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates

RESULTS

Save Us Now Inc.
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
Society of State Leaders of Health and Physical Education
The Gerontological Society of America
The Obesity Society
Trinity Health Hospitality Services
NAACP

State and Local Organizations

100 Black Men of Chicago (Illinois)
Aging & In-Home Services of Northeast Indiana, Inc. (Indiana)
Asian Chamber of Commerce (Colorado)
B.Komplete (New Jersey)
Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging (Ohio)
Boston Organization of Nutritionist and Dietitians of Color (Massachusetts)
Breastfeeding Task Force of Greater Los Angeles (California)
Cook County Physicians Association (Illinois)
Equality North Carolina (North Carolina)
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (Hawaii)
Hennepin Healthcare (Minnesota)
Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce (Illinois)
Institute of Continuing Education for Nutrition Professionals (North Carolina)
Maryland Public Health Association (Maryland)
Massachusetts Councils on Aging (Massachusetts)
Meals on Wheels Orange County (California)
Neighborly Care Network (Florida)
Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging (Ohio)

Small and Local Businesses

Dakota Dietitians (Sioux Falls, South Dakota)
HomeFresh Personal Chef Services (Lincoln, Nebraska)
Jenni K Nutrition (New York, New York)
Liz Fayram RDN, Inc (Providence, Rhode Island)
Nutrition Communication Services (Bradley Beach, New Jersey)
Ruhk (Mankato, MN)
Running Dietitian (Wheaton, Illinois)
SCS Nutrition Consulting, LLC (Huntsville, Alabama)
True for You Nutrition, LLC (Olympia, Washington)
Weight Inclusive Nutrition & Dietetics (Arlington, Virginia)