

February 25, 2025,

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

As you embark on your new role as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services you are well aware that the health of our nation is at a critical crossroads, with rising rates of chronic disease, increasing health care disparities and the growing need for evidence-based nutrition and wellness initiatives.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is the largest organization representing registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) and nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered (NDTRs). We are committed to supporting policies that prioritize public health, nutrition education and equitable access to care. We believe that elevating nutrition in public health and ensuring that the voices of RDNs and NDTRs are included will lead to a healthier future for our nation.

As Secretary, you are now the nation's leader on public health policy and regulation and have the unique opportunity to champion initiatives that promote better nutrition, prevent chronic disease and improve health outcomes for all Americans.

We urge you to seek the counsel of qualified and credentialed experts when making policy decisions related to chronic disease prevention and nutrition. We ask that you leverage the knowledge of RDNs and NDTRs to create programs that bolster prevention efforts, increase nutrition security, eliminate malnutrition and promote healthy eating habits. We request that RDNs and NDTRs have a seat at the table when making decisions that shape public health initiatives, ensuring that policies are grounded in science and evidence-based research.

The Academy is proud to be the leading authority on nutrition, grounded in science, evidence and research. We are interested in collaborating with you and your team to advance initiatives that empower individuals to make informed health decisions based on science that will create a healthier America. By ensuring that nutrition remains at the forefront of public health policy, we can make meaningful strides in reducing healthcare costs, improving quality of life and addressing the nutritional needs of diverse communities.

We stand ready to work with you to support efforts that align with our shared mission of improving the health and well-being of all Americans. Please let us know a convenient time to connect—we would be honored to contribute our expertise to the important work ahead.

Respectfully submitted,



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Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 2024-25 President