



48th Annual



National Food Policy CONFERENCE

March 11 & 12, 2025 - Grand Hyatt Hotel Washington, D.C.

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

8:30 am	Constitution Foyer	Registration & Breakfast
9:00 am	Constitution AB	Keynote Address - Kevin Hall, National Institutes of Health: Unraveling the Mechanisms of Ultra-processed Foods
9:30 am	Constitution AB	Plenary Session: The New Administration's Food Policy Priorities
10:30 am	Constitution Foyer	Networking Break
11:00 am	Constitution C	Concurrent Session 1: What's Processing Got To Do With It?
11:00 am	Constitution D	Concurrent Session 2: Managing Zoonotic Disease Risk
11:00 am	Constitution E	Concurrent Session 3: Food and Trade (wars)
12:15 pm	Constitution AB	Luncheon
12:45 pm	Constitution AB	Keynote Address - Dariush Mozaffarian, Tufts University: Food is Medicine: Promise and Pitfalls in a Changing Landscapes
1:15 pm	Constitution AB	Keynote Address - Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, U.S.. House of Representatives
1:45 pm	Constitution C	Concurrent Session 1: The Case for Universal Free School Meals
1:45 pm	Constitution D	Concurrent Session 2: Overcoming Conflicts (of interest)
1:45 pm	Constitution E	Concurrent Session 3: How to Lobby Me
3:00 pm	Constitution Foyer	Networking Break
3:30 pm	Constitution AB	Plenary Session: Food and Healthcare Policy Collaboration to Transform the Food System and Build a Healthier Future
4:15 pm	Constitution AB	Plenary Session: New Frontiers of Federal Food Assistance Programs
5:15 pm	Constitution AB	Adjourn

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

8:00 am	Constitution Foyer	Registration & Breakfast
8:30 am	Constitution AB	Welcome
9:00 am	Constitution C	Concurrent Session 1: Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence for Consumers
9:00 am	Constitution D	Concurrent Session 2: The Long Road to FOP Labeling
9:00 am	Constitution E	Concurrent Session 3: Food and Immigration
10:15 am	Constitution Foyer	Networking Break
10:45 am	Constitution AB	Plenary Session: The Evolving Role of Dietitians
11:35 am	Constitution AB	Plenary Session: The Future of Food Chemical Regulation
12:20 pm	Constitution AB	Adjourn

PROGRAM

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

8:30AM

CONSTITUTION FOYER

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

9:00 AM

CONSTITUTION AB

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION



SUSAN WEINSTOCK
CEO
CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA
@CONSUMERFED



THOMAS GREMILLION
DIRECTOR OF FOOD POLICY
CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA
@CONSUMERFED @CFAFOODPOLICY

9:00 AM-9:30 AM

CONSTITUTION AB

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

UNRAVELING THE MECHANISMS OF ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS



KEVIN HALL
SECTION CHIEF: INTEGRATIVE
PHYSIOLOGY SECTION, LABORATORY
OF BIOLOGICAL MODELING
NIH, NIDDK

9:30 AM-10:30 AM

CONSTITUTION AB

PLENARY SESSION

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S FOOD POLICY PRIORITIES

Under the first Trump Administration, federal regulators eased restrictions on the use of pesticides and herbicides, relaxed nutrition standards for school meals, gave biotech companies more flexibility to put genetically engineered foods on the market, and authorized meat processors to operate at faster line speeds, among other market-friendly policies. Will the second Trump Administration continue where it left off, or will it forge new alliances in a bid to "Make America Healthy Again"? What kinds of policy shifts from the status quo can we expect to see? What role will Congress play?

MODERATOR



HELENA BOTTEMILLER EVICH
FOUNDER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
FOOD FIX
FOODFIX.CO

PANELISTS



BETH JOHNSON
FOUNDER + PRINCIPAL
FOOD DIRECTIONS LLC



BRIAN RONHOLM
DIRECTOR OF FOOD POLICY
CONSUMER REPORTS



JESSICA SCHULKEN
PRINCIPAL
THE RUSSELL GROUP

10:30 AM-11:00 AM

CONSTITUTION FOYER

NETWORKING BREAK

11:00 AM-12:15 PM

CONSTITUTION C

CONCURRENT SESSION 1

WHAT'S PROCESSING GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Controversy surrounds the concept of ultra-processed foods, with critics arguing that the term lacks precision and groups together foods with little in common. Yet researchers continue to investigate how food processing affects nutrition, and to translate that research into dietary advice. What can policymakers and the public take away from the current science on ultra-processed foods? How can future research illuminate the connections between food processing and health?

MODERATOR



GABBY HEADRICK
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR
OF UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN
NUTRITION
MILKEN INSTITUTE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC
HEALTH, GEORGE WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
LINKEDIN.COM/IN/GABBYHEADRICK

PANELISTS



JENNIFER CADENHEAD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAURIE M. TISCH
CENTER OF FOOD, EDUCATION & POLICY
RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
TEACHER COLLEGE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
LINKEDIN.COM/IN/JENCADENHEAD



MELISSA HALAS
PRESIDENT
THE NON-UPF PROGRAM
INSTAGRAM.COM/NONUPFPROGRAM



KEVIN HALL
SECTION CHIEF: INTEGRATIVE
PHYSIOLOGY SECTION, LABORATORY
OF BIOLOGICAL MODELING
NIH, NIDDK



AVIVA MUSICUS
SCIENCE DIRECTOR
CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC
INTEREST, ADJUNCT ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR OF NUTRITION, HARVARD
T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
@AVIVAMUSICUS

11:00 AM-12:15 PM

CONSTITUTION D

CONCURRENT SESSION 2

MANAGING ZOOONOTIC DISEASE RISK

Zoonotic diseases, caused by pathogens endemic to wildlife or livestock that spill over into human populations, are a major public health threat. In 2009, the Institute of Medicine estimated that zoonotic diseases accounted for more than 65% of emerging infectious disease events in the past six decades. With the advent of new genetic analysis tools, researchers have discovered new connections between food production and illness, such as between E. coli in meat products and hundreds of thousands of anti-biotic resistant urinary tract infections in the U.S. each year. Managing zoonotic disease risk represents an increasingly significant cost to food producers, with the poultry industry alone incurring tens of billions dollars in direct costs. Who should bear the costs of protecting the public from zoonotic disease? How should policymakers respond to zoonotic disease risk? What practices deserve closer scrutiny?

MODERATOR



KENNY TORRELLA
SENIOR REPORTER
VOX
@KENNYTORRELLA

PANELISTS



MEGHAN DAVIS
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



MIQUELA HANSELMAN
DIRECTOR, REGULATORY AFFAIRS
NATIONAL MILK PRODUCERS
FEDERATION



CAMERON HARSH
US DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS
WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION
@WORLDANIMALPROTECTIONUS
@MOVETHEWORLDUS

11:00 AM-12:15 PM CONSTITUTION E

CONCURRENT SESSION 3 FOOD AND TRADE (WARS)

The U.S. imports nearly a fifth of its food supply, including an estimated one third of vegetables and two-thirds of fruits. At the same time, U.S. companies export tens of billions of dollars' worth of corn, soy, beef, pork, and other agricultural commodities. How will tariff hikes affect agricultural policy, food prices, and global hunger? What lessons can be learned from the first Trump Administration's trade disputes with China and other major trading partners, and what can we expect this time around?

MODERATOR



LISA HELD
SENIOR STAFF REPORTER &
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
CIVIL EATS
@LISAEALINEH,
@LISAEALINEH.BSKY.SOCIAL

PANELISTS



KAREN HANSEN-KUHN
DIRECTOR OF TRADE AND
INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIES
INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND
TRADE POLICIES
@HANSENKUHN,
@KHANSENKUHN.BSKY.SOCIAL



PRECIOUS TSHABALALA
ECONOMIST
UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS
LINKEDIN.COM/IN/PRECIOUS-
TSHABALALA-PHD-79357234



LORI WALLACH
DIRECTOR, RETHINK TRADE PROGRAM
AMERICAN ECONOMIC LIBERTIES
PROJECT
@WALLACHLORI
@WALLACHLORI.BSKY.SOCIAL

12:15 PM - 12:45 PM CONSTITUTION AB LUNCHEON

12:45PM - 1:15PM CONSTITUTION AB KEYNOTE ADDRESS

FOOD IS MEDICINE: PROMISE AND PITFALLS IN A
CHANGING LANDSCAPE



DARIUSH MOZAFFARIAN
DIRECTOR, FOOD IS MEDICINE
INSTITUTE, FRIEDMAN SCHOOL OF
NUTRITION SCIENCE AND POLICY TUFTS
UNIVERSITY
LINKEDIN.COM/IN/DMOZAFFARIAN

1:15PM - 1:45PM CONSTITUTION AB KEYNOTE ADDRESS



REPRESENTATIVE SANFORD BISHOP, JR.
RANKING MEMBER, AGRICULTURE, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
@SANFONDBISHOP

1:45 PM-3:00 PM CONSTITUTION C

CONCURRENT SESSION 1

THE CASE FOR UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Americans got a taste of universal free school meals during the pandemic, and several states have opted to continue with the policy following the federal policy's reversion to the status quo. Advocates claim that the policy boosts access to school meals, decreases administrative burden for school administrators and nutrition staff, and reduces stigma for students from families with low incomes. Opponents claim it is too expensive and fosters government dependency. What is the experience of states that have launched universal free school meals programs? How should these experiences inform federal school meal policy?

MODERATOR



KELLY HORTON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PUBLIC
DIRECTOR AND GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS
ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
LINKEDIN.COM/IN/KELLYDHORTON

PANELISTS



JESSICA GOULD
DIRECTOR OF NUTRITION & WAREHOUSE
LITTLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, COLORADO
LINKEDIN.COM/IN/JESSICAGOULDRDSNS



NICOLE MELIA
PUBLIC POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION OF
PENNSYLVANIA



LISA QUIGLEY
DIRECTOR OF SOLVING HUNGER
TUSK PHILANTHROPIES

1:45 PM-3:00 PM CONSTITUTION D

CONCURRENT SESSION 2

OVERCOMING CONFLICTS (OF INTEREST)

Amidst growing skepticism with experts and institutions generally, nutrition and food policy research has come under increasing scrutiny. Critics have cited research funding and consulting fees for nutritionists affiliated with the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, the National Institutes of Health, major universities, and other public health authorities, as evidence of bias. Policymakers in the United Kingdom have recommended that food policy discussions "exclude food businesses" that produce less healthy products. What are the controls in place to manage conflicts of interest, and where do they fall short? What can policymakers do to restore trust in nutrition research and dietary guidance?

MODERATOR



SASHA CHAVKIN
SENIOR REPORTER
THE EXAMINATION
@SASHACHAVKIN.BSKY.SOCIAL
@SASHACHAVKIN

PANELISTS



MICHAEL JACOBSON
MUSEUM FOUNDER AND NUTRITION
ACTIVIST
NATIONAL FOOD MUSEUM



JEROLD MANDE
CEO
NOURISH SCIENCE
@JERRYMANDE

1:45 PM-3:00 PM CONSTITUTION E

CONCURRENT SESSION 3 HOW TO LOBBY ME

Back by popular demand! Lobbying can feel daunting, but despite the noisy headlines about congressional chaos and dysfunction, lawmakers continue to govern, and advocacy on food policy can make a difference. In this session, congressional staffers will talk about what is most effective in persuading their bosses, and how you can refine your lobbying strategy to best succeed.

MODERATOR



ROBERTA WAGNER
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, REGULATORY
AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS
INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FOODS
ASSOCIATION

PANELISTS



THOMAS EAGEN
SENIOR HEALTH POLICY ADVISOR
U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH,
EDUCATION, LABOR & PENSIONS
SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS



JOHN MYRON
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT
REPRESENTATIVE ROSA DELAURO
@ROSADELAURO



IAN PRINCE
PROFESSIONAL STAFF
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
WORKFORCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



KATHERINE THOMAS
SENIOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF
U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND
FORESTRY
CHAIRMAN JOHN BOOZMAN (R-AR)

3:00 PM-3:30 PM CONSTITUTION FOYER NETWORKING BREAK

3:30 PM-4:15 PM CONSTITUTION AB

PLENARY SESSION FOOD AND HEALTHCARE POLICY COLLABORATION TO TRANSFORM THE FOOD SYSTEM AND BUILD A HEALTHIER FUTURE

The U.S. spends more on healthcare than any other industrialized nation, yet life expectancy continues to decline, with much of our chronic disease burden driven by diet-related diseases. This session will examine the potential role of the healthcare system in a shifting regulatory and public health landscape, from the provision of clinical care, including the GLP-1 weight-loss drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy and "Food is Medicine" initiatives, to product regulation, including food ingredients and dietary supplements.

MODERATOR



JANE BLACK
FOOD JOURNALIST
CO-AUTHOR, CONSUMED:
CONSUMED.SUBSTACK.COM

PANELISTS



PETER LURIE
PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC
INTEREST
CSPINET.ORG



DARIUSH MOZAFFARIAN
DIRECTOR, FOOD IS MEDICINE
INSTITUTE, FRIEDMAN SCHOOL OF
NUTRITION SCIENCE AND POLICY
TUFTS UNIVERSITY
LINKEDIN.COM/IN/DMOZAFFARIAN

4:15 PM-5:15 PM CONSTITUTION AB

PLENARY SESSION NEW FRONTIERS OF FEDERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Will the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) ever allow recipients to purchase hot food, or exclude products like soda? How are shifts to online purchasing in programs like SNAP and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) playing out across the country? What future innovations are in store?

MODERATOR



STACY DEAN
CARBONELL FAMILY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
GWU GLOBAL FOOD INSTITUTE

PANELISTS



SALAAM BHATTI
SNAP DIRECTOR
FOOD RESEARCH & ACTION CENTER
BSKY.APP/PROFILE/FRACPOSTS.BSKY.
SOCIAL
BSKY.APP/PROFILE/POVERTYLAWYER.
BSKY.SOCIAL



NANCY DALTON
DIRECTOR, AMAZON ACCESS
AMAZON.COM



NELL MENELEE-LIBEY
SENIOR PUBLIC POLICY MANAGER
NATIONAL WIC ASSOCIATION
@NATWICASSOC



JENNIE NORKA
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF SCIENTIFIC AND
REGULATORY AFFAIRS
AMERICAN FROZEN FOOD INSTITUTE

5:15 PM ADJOURN

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

8:00AM

CONSTITUTION FOYER

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

8:30 AM

CONSTITUTION AB

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION



THOMAS GREMILLION
DIRECTOR OF FOOD POLICY
CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA
@CONSUMERFED @CFAFOODPOLICY

9:00 AM-10:15 AM

CONSTITUTION C

CONCURRENT SESSION 1

HARNESSING THE POWER OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR CONSUMERS

So far, the food industry's investments in artificial intelligence have focused on using consumer data to refine marketing tactics. But tools like rapid pathogen detection, food environment mapping, and predictive analytics suggest further potential for A.I. to reduce food safety risk, boost nutrition, and cope with environmental stressors. Federal regulatory agencies are using A.I. for projects ranging from post-market surveillance of food ingredient safety, to measuring soil moisture. How can public policy help to ensure that artificial intelligence helps to improve diets, and not just companies' bottom lines?

MODERATOR



DOMINIQUE CARTER
PRINCIPAL
LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES, LLC

PANELISTS



SARA ECKHOUSE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOODSHOT GLOBAL
@FOODSHOTGLOBAL
LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/FOODSHOT-GLOBAL



KATHARINA KOPP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND DIRECTOR OF POLICY
CENTER FOR DIGITAL DEMOCRACY
@DIGITALDEMOC.BSKY.SOCIAL
DEMOCRATICMEDIA.ORG



BEN WINTERS
DIRECTOR OF AI AND PRIVACY
CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA
@CONSUMERFED

9:00 AM-10:15 AM

CONSTITUTION D

CONCURRENT SESSION 2

THE LONG ROAD TO FOP LABELING

Dozens of countries use front-of-package (FOP) nutrition labels to draw attention to foods with high sugar, fat and sodium content. After decades of anticipation, FDA is on the cusp of mandating an FOP label for U.S. producers, but the proposal is controversial. How serious are challenges to the rule's legality? What's the evidence that FOP labeling rules make a difference to public health?

MODERATOR



JESSICA WASSERMAN
PARTNER
WASSERMAN ROWE LLC

PANELISTS



MARA BURR
VICE PRESIDENT, REGULATORY & TECHNICAL AFFAIRS
CONSUMER BRANDS ASSOCIATION



EMILY HOLUBOWICH
NATIONAL SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL ADVOCACY
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
@AMHEARTADVOCACY



SARAH SORSCHER
DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST



VANESSA GARCÍA LARSEN
UNIT CHIEF, RISK FACTORS UNIT,
DEPARTMENT OF NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND MENTAL HEALTH
PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

9:00 AM-10:15 AM

CONSTITUTION E

CONCURRENT SESSION 3

FOOD AND IMMIGRATION

Immigration policy significantly influenced the 2024 elections, with 55% of voters indicating that they wanted immigration reduced and 20% of Trump voters citing it as their most important issue. Immigrants, many of them undocumented, play an outsized role in the food system. For example, USDA estimates that half of the 2.4 million agricultural farm workers are undocumented immigrants. How will policies to restrict new arrivals and deport those already here affect food prices, worker welfare, food industry innovation, competition, and other facets of the food system?

MODERATOR



GARRETT DOWNS
CONGRESS REPORTER
E&E NEWS
@GARRETTDOWNS

PANELISTS



ROGER CRYAN
CHIEF ECONOMIST
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION



VALERIE LACARTE
SENIOR POLICY ANALYST
MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE



HALEY NICHOLSON
DEPUTY LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION
LINKEDIN.COM/IN/HALEY-NICHOLSON-36633728

10:15 AM-10:45 AM
CONSTITUTION FOYER
NETWORKING BREAK

10:45 AM-11:35 AM
CONSTITUTION AB
PLENARY SESSION
THE EVOLVING ROLE OF DIETITIANS

As concerns have grown over Americans' growing waistlines, so too has the demand for dietitians' advice. Dietitians are increasingly raising awareness about preventative strategies to avoid chronic diet-related diseases, helping to manage pharmaceutical weight-loss interventions, and becoming more involved in public policy. At the same time, they are attracting greater scrutiny for perceived conflicts of interest. How are dietitians shaping, and being shaped by, food policy? A panel of dietitians will discuss the contributions that the profession has to offer, navigating ethical challenges, and responding to emerging evidence in nutrition science.

MODERATOR



KRYSTAL REGISTER
VICE PRESIDENT OF HEALTH &
WELL-BEING
FMI - THE FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

PANELISTS



STEPHANIE K. GOODWIN
DIRECTOR, NUTRITION POLICY
PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
DANONE NORTH AMERICA
[LINKEDIN.COM/IN/STEPHANIEGOODWIN](https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephaniegoodwin)



ALI HARD
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY
NATIONAL WIC ASSOCIATION
[@NATWICASSOC](https://www.instagram.com/natwicassoc)



WENDY REINHARDT KAPSAK
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER
INTERNATIONAL FOOD INFORMATION
COUNCIL

11:35 AM-12:20 PM
CONSTITUTION AB

PLENARY SESSION
THE FUTURE OF FOOD CHEMICAL REGULATION

According to recent survey data, consumer concerns about chemicals in food are growing, with "ultra-processed" becoming the new buzz word. Champions for reform have pointed out that many popular American food brands are sold in countries abroad with different lists of ingredients that omit synthetic food dyes and other additives of concern. How do regulatory requirements for food ingredients in countries like Canada and the European Union differ from those in the U.S.? How do they affect the foods available to consumers? What is the food industry's role in evaluating food additive safety?

MODERATOR



MASON WEEDA
MANAGING PRINCIPAL, FDA FOOD
PRACTICE HEAD AND DIGITAL HEALTH
PRACTICE
OFW LAW

PANELISTS



MELANIE BENESH
VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS
ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP
[@MELANIEBENESH.BSKY.SOCIAL](https://www.instagram.com/melaniebenesh.bsky.social)



MIRIAM GUGGENHEIM
PARTNER AND CO-CHAIR OF THE FOOD,
DRUG & DEVICE PRACTICE
COVINGTON & BURLING LLP
[LINKEDIN.COM/IN/MIRIAM-GUGGENHEIM-23148756](https://www.linkedin.com/in/miriam-guggenheim-23148756)



MARICEL MAFFINI
INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT
[@MVMAFFINI](https://www.instagram.com/mvmaffini), [@MVMAFFINI.BSKY.SOCIAL](https://www.instagram.com/mvmaffini.bsky.social)
[LINKEDIN.COM/IN/MARICEL-MAFFINI-6BA41686](https://www.linkedin.com/in/maricel-maffini-6BA41686)



TONY PAVEL
PARTNER
KELLER AND HECKMAN LLP

12:20 PM
ADJOURN

SPEAKER BIOS

Melanie Benesh is an expert with more than ten years of experience analyzing legal and policy issues related to federal food, cosmetics, farm and chemical law. She is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center where she currently co-teaches a course on public interest advocacy and food justice as an adjunct professor.

Salaam Bhatti joined FRAC in November 2023 as the SNAP Director. Salaam joins FRAC after working at the Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC). While at VPLC, he successfully lobbied to fully repeal the drug felon ban for SNAP and TANF, twice achieved record increases to TANF cash benefits, subsidized reduced-priced school meals, repealed the TANF family cap, ended lunch shaming policies in schools, and received a unanimous vote to expand SNAP for over 20,000 families. Salaam also helped develop a mobile-friendly, SNAP screening tool which is used by tens of thousands of people & multiple non-profits and has been rolled out to be available for all states and D.C. Salaam has a J.D. from Touro Law School, is barred in New York and Virginia, and received his Bachelors in Political Science and International Relations from Albright College (with a year abroad in the University of Aberdeen).

Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. is the Ranking Member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. In addition, he serves on the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee and on the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. He has represented the Second Congressional District of Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1993. As an appropriator and legislator, he seeks to use the legislative process to create a better quality of life for all citizens by promoting jobs and a stronger, more diversified economy; opportunities for rural areas; better education; safe and secure communities; a clean environment; affordable and accessible health care; sustainable agriculture; energy independence; and a strong national defense.

Jane Black is a Washington, D.C.-based food journalist. She is the co-author of the newsletter, Consumed: a trusted resource for people who care about food, well-being, and planetary health. Her podcast Pressure Cooker won a James Beard award for its examination of the challenges of modern motherhood and feeding children. Her work appears in The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and more.

Mara Burr serves as Vice President, Regulatory & Technical Affairs at Consumer Brands Association, providing strategic and tactical regulatory policy leadership on issues impacting the consumer packaged goods (CPG) industry and Consumer Brands' strategic priorities, as well as proactively identify emerging regulatory policy issues, concerns and opportunities that enhance the intersection of advancing the CPG industry's agenda and meeting expectations of the American consumer. Prior to joining Consumer Brands, Burr served as Director, Multilateral Relations in the Office of the Secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), where she led U.S. government engagement with the World Health Organization (WHO) and its six regional offices, the United Nations, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Burr was twice elected Vice Chair of the Governing Council of IARC (2022-2023). Burr also served as Food Safety Policy Manager at U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the Office of the Center Director at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, where she was responsible for implementing provisions of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and other legal and policy goals of FDA. From 2004-2014, Burr served as Deputy Assistant United States Trade Representative at the Office of the United States Trade Representative in the Executive Office of the President of the United States. Before her government service, Burr was in private practice in Washington, D.C. working on international trade, regulatory, customs and World Trade Organization legal and policy issues. In 2023, she received the HHS Secretary's Distinguished Service Award for the work of Multilateral Relations in leading multilateral efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. She has also received awards from the United States Trade Representative, the Department of State, the Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, recognizing her strong and unwavering commitment to serving the American people. Burr graduated from Georgetown University Law Center with an LL.M. in international and comparative law, receiving the Dean's Certificate for distinguished contributions to Georgetown Law, Mitchell-Hamline Law School with a Juris Doctorate and the University of Saint Thomas (Saint Paul, Minnesota) with a BA. Burr is a member of the bar of the United States Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the Court of International Trade and the District of Columbia. Burr is also a member of the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). Burr is originally from Central Minnesota and now lives with her family in Alexandria, Virginia.

Jen Cadenhead, Ph.D., a behavioral nutrition scientist, studies human diet patterns including ultra-processed food consumption, and its relationship to cancer and chronic disease. She is the Executive Director at the Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education and Policy and Research Assistant Professor in the Program in Nutrition at Teachers College, Columbia University. At the Tisch Food Center her team studies the impact of federal and local government food policies on children's health, with a special interest in nutrition security. She mentors doctoral and masters students and also teaches Community Nutrition. Prior to joining Teachers College, she spent more than 20 years organizing to improve access to healthy foods and provide support to her local children's organizations. She also spent over a dozen years in the actuarial field. She earned her B.S. degree in mathematics and sociology from Duke University. She obtained her dietetic credentials, masters, and doctoral degrees, along with post-doctoral training in nutrition and public health and nutritional epidemiology at Teachers College, Columbia University, and had additional clinical training at New York Presbyterian Hospital as well as research training at Columbia University Dental School and Kaiser Permanente Division of Research.

Dominique Carter, Ph.D. is an award-winning scientist, science diplomat, and entrepreneur whose pioneering work at the nexus of science policy and strategy has advanced the agriculture, health, and bioeconomy sectors. Honored with the 2024 Black Women in Food Trailblazer Award, Dr. Carter is recognized as a leader who has paved the way for others through groundbreaking contributions in sustainable food systems policy. Dr. Carter is currently a Principal with Lewis-Burke & Associates where she leverages her interdisciplinary technical expertise to champion science and bolster clients' endeavors across various health, agriculture, science, and technology areas. Dominique formerly held the position of Vice President of Food & Nutrition Affairs at FoodMinds, where she provided senior counsel on nutrition policy to agricultural commodities and food & beverage companies. Prior to this, Dr. Carter served as Assistant Director for Agricultural Sciences, Innovation, and Workforce at the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy, where her contributions were pivotal in shaping and executing groundbreaking policy initiatives, including the first-ever White House Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health; the Executive Order on Advancing Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing Innovation for a Sustainable, Safe, and Secure American Bioeconomy; and National Security Memorandum on Strengthening the Security and Resilience of United States Food and Agriculture (NSM-16). She is the founder of Global STEM Solutions, LLC, a boutique consulting firm pioneering transformative solutions for a sustainable future through science, technology, and innovation. Dr. Carter is an Aspen Institute Food Leaders Fellow, member of the Council for Foreign Relations (CFR), an Advisory Council Member for the Harvard Business Review (HBR), and an Advisory Board member for SIA-Africa, a non-profit organization working to develop sustainable global alliances in science and education across Africa. A Chicago native, Dr. Carter earned her BS in Chemistry from Saint Norbert College and her PhD in Microbiology and Bioengineering from the Medical College of Wisconsin. She is an alumnus of prestigious leadership fellowships, including the Atlantic Council Millennium Leadership Fellowship and the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship.

Sasha Chavkin is a senior reporter for The Examination. Sasha has previously written for outlets including ProPublica and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), where he was a longtime reporter and played key roles in award-winning investigations such as the Implant Files and Paradise Papers. His stories have led to dangerous products being recalled, a cabinet secretary being investigated, and billions of dollars in unjustified debts being forgiven. Sasha is a native New Yorker, speaks fluent Spanish and is a long-suffering fan of the New York Mets.

Roger Cryan, Ph.D. leads the economics team at AFBF, after 25 years focused on dairy economics and marketing at USDA and the National Milk Producers Federation. He grew up in Grahamsville, New York, where his first job was stacking bales on the neighbor's dairy farm. He has a B.A. in International Studies from the Johns Hopkins University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Food and Resource Economics from the University of Florida.

Nancy Dalton is the Director for Amazon Access. She and her team design and implement retail products and services that make shopping on Amazon easier and more affordable. Prior to joining Amazon Access, Nancy served in several leadership roles across Amazon. Before that, she spent over 20 years in financial services, holding executive roles at Fleet Credit Card Services, Bank of America and Barclays Bank. She has functioned as an executive coach at the National Diversity Women's Business Leadership conference for several years. Nancy holds a B.S. in Organizational Dynamics and is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Executive Program in Social Impact Strategy. She is also a Senior Certified Professional (SCP) through the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). Nancy is a member of the Association for Talent Development (ATD) and serves on the Board of Directors for the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), Food Bank of DE and Positive Deposits, Inc.

Meghan Davis, Ph.D. studies the interface of bacteria and hosts to reduce microbe-mediated disease in humans and animals as a molecular epidemiologist and an environmental microbiologist. Her work applies the principles of one health and microbial ecology, evaluating target microbes and bacterial genes specifically and the larger microbial community (microbiome) broadly. Davis also evaluates non-infection outcomes, specifically asthma, from exposure to bacterial agents and their toxic products. Designing and testing interventions to combat the rise of bacterial antimicrobial resistance and both infection and non-infection outcomes related to microbial exposures in a one health context is the goal of her research career.

Stacy Dean champions the GWU Global Food Institute's mission to change the world through the power of food as Executive Director. She is a renowned national food policy leader with more than 30 years of experience in the government and non-profit sectors, dedicated to improving nutrition assistance for struggling Americans and tackling barriers ingrained within nutrition programs. Her distinguished career includes her most recent role as the Deputy Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, where she led the Administration's work on federal nutrition programs. In this role, Dean was instrumental in strengthening the agency's efforts on food and nutrition security as well as local food systems and resilience. Prior to her role at USDA, Dean served as the Vice President for Food Assistance Policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, where she led their research and advocacy work on federal nutrition programs as well as other safety net programs. She has authored scores of papers and analyses on federal nutrition programs, testified before Congress and has been frequently quoted in the media, including the NYTimes, Politico and other publications. Stacy holds a Master's in Public Policy and a BA from the University of Michigan.

SPEAKER BIOS

Garrett Downs is a Congress reporter for E&E News, focusing on natural resources. Garrett previously was the food and agriculture reporter for POLITICO. Before that, he worked for Agri-Pulse Communications, where he covered Congress. He broke news on efforts to overhaul ocean shipping laws, tracked early movers and shakers in the lead-up to the 2023 farm bill and scoured the halls of the Capitol to dig up ag scoops for Agri-Pulse's daily newsletter, Daybreak. He has also covered international trade policy and agricultural trade at Inside U.S. Trade. Garrett also worked with POLITICO as an intern on the New York team. Covering Albany from Maine during the pandemic, he tracked the odds of gambling legalization, scrutinized state energy policy and broke a story on progressive state legislators planning for the downfall of then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo on the app Clubhouse. While in college at St. John's University, Garrett worked as a copy kid at the New York Post. Though his day job was manning the copy machine, he found his way onto the streets of NYC searching for stories. His first scoop on sticky-fingered costumed characters led to a spiderman in handcuffs. Garrett was raised in the seacoast region of New Hampshire. Though he did not grow up on a farm, his first job was selling sweetcorn out of a pickup on the side of the White Mountain Highway.

Thomas Eagen is Senior Health Policy Advisor in the Office of the Chair, Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT) for the US Senate HELP Committee. Previously, Thomas was Health Policy Director at National Center for Health Research. In this role, Thomas focused on the impact of federal health policy to improve quality of care for all patient populations, and was responsible for tracking active legislation and engaging with Members of Congress and Congressional staff to serve as a resource and ensure policies are supported by research. Previously, Thomas served as a Legislative Assistant in the Office of Senator Maria Cantwell. Dr. Eagen completed his PhD in Rehabilitation Science and MPH in Health Systems and Policy at the University of Washington. Dr. Eagen has focused on the overall reach and effectiveness of evidence-based programs designed for community-dwelling older adults supported by federal funding. Specifically, he has explored the participation of individuals with disabilities in evidence-based falls prevention programs. In his post-graduate work, Dr. Eagen has continued to gain a better understanding of how individuals with disabilities participate in falls prevention programs. His research has sought to identify the individuals at the greatest risk for adverse events, which factors contribute to adverse events, and which programs successfully reduce this risk among individuals with disabilities.

Sara Eckhouse is Executive Director of FoodShot Global, an integrated, collaborative investment platform that includes the \$500,000+ GroundBreaker Prize and up to \$10 million in equity investment to accelerate the transformation to a healthy, sustainable, and equitable food system. Previously, Sara worked as a consultant with S2G Ventures, and before that she served as Senior Advisor to Secretary Tom Vilsack at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Sara also worked in the Obama White House in the Office of Legislative Affairs, and as a Field Organizer on the 2008 Obama Presidential Campaign. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College.

Helena Bottemiller Evich is the founder and editor-in-chief of Food Fix. Most recently, she led coverage of food and agriculture issues at POLITICO for nearly a decade, winning numerous awards for her work, including a George Polk Award for a series on climate change and two James Beard Awards for features on nutrition and science. In 2022, she was a James Beard Award finalist for a deep dive on diet-related diseases and Covid-19. Before launching POLITICO's food policy coverage in 2013, Helena was the Washington correspondent for Food Safety News where she covered deadly foodborne illness outbreaks and the run-up to Congress passing the most significant update to food safety law in a century. Helena is a sought-after speaker and commentator on food issues, appearing on CNN, MSNBC, CBS, BBC and NPR, among others. Her work is widely cited in the media and has also been published in the Columbia Journalism Review and on NBC News. Born and raised in Washington state, Helena attended Claremont McKenna College, where she studied government. She now lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband, two kids and tabby cat.

Stephanie Goodwin joined the Public and Government Affairs team at Danone North America (NA) in 2019. She has been with Danone since 2014, first on the science team, then on the regulatory affairs team, and now with Public and Government Affairs as the Director of Nutrition Policy. Prior to joining Danone, Stephanie worked within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the 2015 Dietary Guidelines supporting the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Diets. Stephanie is a Registered Dietitian and earned a Master of Public Health in Health Education, as well as her Doctorate in Human Nutrition and Public Policy from Virginia Tech. She completed her Post-Doctoral Fellowship in metabolic science at the National Institutes of Health. Danone is a purpose-driven Global food and beverage manufacturer and in North America is a Public Benefit Corporation, and a proud Certified B Corporation® with the mission of “health through food to as many people as possible.”

Jessica Gould, RD, SNS has been the Director of Nutrition and Warehouse with Littleton Public Schools for over 10 years. Littleton Public Schools has an enrollment of 14,000 and serves roughly 7,500 students daily. She has extensive experience in School Nutrition with emphasis on advocacy, menu planning/purchasing, commodity utilization, and financial accountability. Jessica is a registered dietitian, school nutrition specialist, past president for the Colorado School Nutrition Association, past-chair of the Public Policy & Legislation committee for School Nutrition Association and current School Nutrition Association Board member.

Thomas Gremillion is the Director of Food Policy at the Consumer Federation of America. He oversees the research, analysis, advocacy and media outreach for the group's food policy activities, and monitors food safety activities at USDA, FDA and in Congress, where he advocates for strong food safety protections for consumers. He also coordinates the Safe Food Coalition, a group of consumer, trade union, and foodborne illness victim organizations dedicated to reducing foodborne illness by improving government food inspection programs. Prior to joining CFA in 2015, Gremillion practiced environmental law at Georgetown University Law Center's Institute for Public Representation, where he represented community groups and advocacy organizations in litigation against polluters and government regulators. He also served as an associate attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center in Chapel Hill, NC, where he specialized in transportation and land use issues. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Gremillion is a member of the D.C. and North Carolina bars. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of South Carolina with a B.S. in mathematics, and served as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in Quito, Ecuador, where he received an M.A. in International Relations from La Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar.

Miriam J. Guggenheim is a Partner and Co-Chair of the Food, Drug and Device practice at Covington & Burling LLP. She focuses primarily on the food and dietary supplement industries and counsels clients on all aspects of product development and marketing, from formulation, manufacturing, and safety considerations to labeling and advertising. Her work for a broad range of leading global food and dietary supplement companies and major trade associations includes regulatory advice, advocacy before regulators, courts and legislative bodies, and strategic counseling in light of overarching public health and nutrition policy considerations. Miriam is ranked as one of America's Leading Business Lawyers, Food & Beverages: Regulatory & Litigation by Chambers USA. Miriam received her BA, magna cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania and her JD, with honors, from Columbia University School of Law.

Melissa Halas, MA, RDN, CDE, is the president of the Non-UPF Program a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping consumers reduce their intake of ultra-processed foods and replace them with healthier alternatives. Through this initiative, she collaborates with leading experts in ultra-processed foods (UPF) to enhance ingredient transparency, educate the public and HCPs, and support research collaboration in this area. Melissa is also a nationally recognized registered dietitian, author, and plant-based nutrition expert with 25 years of experience helping adults, children, and communities lead healthier lives. She has a talent for making good nutrition come to life in a fun, tasty, and engaging way. She founded SuperKids Nutrition, the first pediatric nutrition mega-site, which provides parents with expert resources to address nutrition concerns. Melissa is the creator of the Super Crew®—a group of friends who gain their powers from eating colorful, healthy foods. This parent-adored and child-approved squad helps motivate young kids to develop healthy eating habits early through books, hands-on learning activities, and national health campaigns. Melissa also provides nutrition counseling through Melissa's Healthy Living, helping clients achieve their best health potential. She believes that balanced nutrition contributes to positive spiritual, physical, and mental well-being. Her first love was teaching, and she has taught courses on functional foods—focusing on phytonutrients, micronutrients, and brain health—for over 18 years.

Kevin Dennis Hall, Ph.D. is the Section Chief of the Integrative Physiology Section, Laboratory of Biological Modeling at NIH, NIDDK. His laboratory investigates how metabolism and the brain adapt in response to a variety of interventions to diet and physical activity. They perform experiments in both humans and rodents to better understand the complex mechanisms regulating macronutrient metabolism, body composition, and energy expenditure. A unique aspect of the laboratory involves the development of mathematical models to quantitatively describe, explain, integrate, and predict the experimental results.

Miquela Hanselman joined NMPF in 2019 as its director of regulatory affairs, leading NMPF's regulatory-focused efforts on nutrition and public health, including the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. She also oversees NMPF's efforts for the National Conference of Interstate Milk Shipments, the multi-sector Tuberculosis Working Group and NMPF's internship program. She is also the program lead for FARM Biosecurity, focused on protecting the health of dairy farmers' herds and employees. Hanselman received her Bachelor's of Science in Animal Science and Master of Public Health with a concentration in food systems from Cornell University. Growing up on a dairy farm in upstate New York still operating today, she is thankful for the opportunities that being a part of the dairy industry has given her. She enjoys going home to help her brothers feed calves, milk cows and to spend time with her dog, Poppy.

Karen Hansen-Kuhn is director of trade and international strategies at IATP. She leads IATP's work on trade policy and ensures synergies among our programs on trade, farm systems and climate and economic justice. She has published articles on U.S. trade and agriculture policies and their impacts on food security, rural livelihoods and the climate crisis. She was the international coordinator of the Alliance for Responsible Trade (ART), a U.S. multi-sectoral coalition promoting just and sustainable trade. In that role and in her work as chair of the monitoring team for the Hemispheric Social Alliance, she brought partners from many sectors and countries together to analyze the impacts of trade proposals and to propose alternative solutions. She continues to research and advocate for alternative trade rules for agriculture, new measures to support a transition to agroecology and efforts to find common ground among farmers and consumers in the Global South and North.

SPEAKER BIOS

Ali Hard serves as Director of Public Policy for the National WIC Association (NWA). Ali is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist with a wealth of experience in federal nutrition policy. Her educational background includes a BA from Columbia University and a Masters in Nutrition and Public Health from Teachers College, Columbia University. Ali previously served as the Chief Policy Officer at USDA Food and Nutrition Service in the Biden Harris Administration, and played a crucial role on the House Committee on Education and Labor, where she led federal nutrition program and other health and human services policy. She also served as Senior Associate for Federal Government Affairs and Federal Government Affairs Manager at the National WIC Association. She returned to NWA in November 2023, shortly before welcoming her first child. Ali has a special connection to WIC, as her husband's family relied on WIC as new immigrants in the 1980s and 1990s.

Cameron Harsh (they/them) leads the US campaigns team in developing and implementing strategies that mobilize people and move stakeholders to protect wild and farmed animals and transform the systems that exploit them. Prior to joining World Animal Protection in 2018 as a campaigner, Cameron worked in US public policy protecting consumers, the environment, and animals from harmful food production practices and supporting the advancement of organic and regenerative practices. They have a Masters in International Affairs from American University and a Masters in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development from the United Nations mandated University for Peace. Cameron lives in Washington, DC.

Gabby Headrick, Ph.D., MSPH, RDN is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences and Director of the Undergraduate Program in Nutrition at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University (GWSPH). As a food systems dietitian, Dr. Headrick's research, teaching, and practice center on the social, environmental, and political determinants of food and nutrition security in the United States, with a particular focus on urban food systems. Her work is dedicated to advancing food production, distribution, access, and affordability, ensuring that healthy, culturally preferred foods are available to all communities. She regularly collaborates with multidisciplinary teams spanning nutrition sciences, social sciences, urban planning, and health policy, partnering with researchers in government, bipartisan organizations, and academic institutions. She prioritizes community-engaged research, co-developing research questions with practitioners, policymakers, and grassroots leaders who can translate findings into action. Her collaborators include federal and local policymakers, nutrition advocacy groups, and community-based food and nutrition leaders, all working to drive meaningful change in food policy and practice in the United States. Prior to joining GWSPH in Fall 2023, Dr. Headrick earned her PhD in Public Health Nutrition from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she also completed her Master of Science in Public Health and certificate program in food systems, environment, and public health at the Center for a Livable Future. She is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) and has worked across clinical, community, and governmental settings.

Lisa Held is a senior staff reporter and contributing editor at Civil Eats, where she is responsible for daily reporting on federal food and agriculture policy and also works on in-depth, investigative projects. Since 2015, she has reported on agriculture and the food system with an eye toward environmental sustainability, equality, and health, and her stories have appeared in publications including The Washington Post, The Guardian, and Eater. Lisa was nominated for a James Beard Award in 2015 for her reporting on the Walton family's impacts on the American food system. She is based in Baltimore.

Emily Holubowich serves as the American Heart Association's National Senior Vice President of Federal Advocacy and has more than twenty years of experience in health and fiscal policy, government relations, strategic communications, and organization management. She is frequently sought out by the media for her expertise on health policy, serves as a lecturer in health policy and management at The George Washington University, and is called upon by national organizations to lecture on the policy environment and best practices in strategic communications and advocacy. In a volunteer capacity, Emily serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations, including Alliance for a Stronger FDA (President), Leadership Fairfax (Vice Chair), Vaccinate Your Family (Past Chair), and Partnership to Protect Coverage. Previously, Emily was a senior vice president at CRD Associates, where she worked with several clients in the public health community—including the Coalition for Health Funding as its Executive Director for 10 years. Prior to CRD Associates, Emily was the director of government relations for AcademyHealth and a senior health policy analyst with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). Emily holds a Master of Public Policy from The Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and English from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Kelly D. Horton, MS, RDN is the Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Government Relations at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. Kelly is a high performing executive level leader and nationally recognized food, nutrition, hunger, food safety, and agriculture policy and program expert. Her experience includes launching a novel nutrition intervention which grew into the basis of what is now known as the Food as/is Medicine movement, being a founding member of one of the nation's first regional food policy councils, and creating the Sustainable Food Policy Alliance – a food industry collaboration advocating for food and agriculture policies that improve people's lives and protect the planet. Kelly has served in leadership roles in private and publicly held for-profit companies and non-profit organizations, as a fellow within the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, and as a Senior Nutrition and Agriculture Advisor to Members of Congress. Kelly earned her Master of Science in Food Policy and Applied Nutrition from Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and her certification in dietetics from Simmons College. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management.

Michael F. Jacobson, who holds a PhD in microbiology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, co-founded and then led a Washington-based health- advocacy organization, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, for four decades. CSPI led efforts to win passage of laws and regulations to ban artificial trans fat and several other food additives, obtain Nutrition Facts labels on packaged foods and calorie counts on chair-restaurant menus, improve school foods and food safety, define the term "organic," and reduce sodium levels. CSPI also educated millions of consumers by means of its Nutrition Action Healthletter, books such as Jacobson's *Six Arguments for a Greener Diet* and *Restaurant Confidential*, and countless media appearances. Jacobson has received the Food and Drug Administration's Commissioner's Special Citation and Harvey W. Wiley Medal, Food Marketing Institute's Consumer Service Award, American Diabetes Association's Medal for Health Promotion and Awareness, CDC-Foundation's Hero award, and American Public Health Association's Award for Advocacy in Public Health. Jacobson has loved museums since his childhood in Chicago, so after he left CSPI, he has continued his educational efforts related to food by founding the National Food Museum. He and his wife, along with their wonderful pooch Oliver, live in Washington, DC.

Beth Johnson, brings over 25 years of food policy experience serving inside and outside the government, including the Food and Drug Administration, US Department of Agriculture, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and the National Restaurant Association, where she built strong relationships with a broad group of stakeholders and a unique and in-depth understanding of how industry can impact policy decisions. Over the years, Johnson has been involved in policy negotiations and development at the local, state, federal and international level. She also helped lead USDA's work on CODEX and the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Beth holds relationships with administration officials, agency career staff, key congressional offices as well as public health and consumer advocates that help pave the way for fruitful discussions for our clients. Johnson lives near Annapolis with her husband and two daughters.

Wendy Reinhardt Kapsak, MS, RDN is President and CEO of the International Food Information Council (IFIC), a nonprofit education organization focused on effectively communicating science-based information about sustainable food systems, with an emphasis on food safety and nutrition. Prior to joining IFIC, Wendy served as the President and CEO of the Produce for Better Health Foundation (PBH). At PBH, she guided the Foundation's efforts with hundreds of public and private partners to advance fruit and vegetable consumption for happier, healthier lives. Under her leadership and through a two-year transformation, the organization launched the Have A Plant® Movement in 2019, which today, inspires millions of consumers to eat and enjoy more fruits and vegetables each and every day. From 2012 to 2016, Reinhardt Kapsak held multiple leadership positions in the Food, Nutrition & Health Partnerships and Corporate Engagement verticals in what is now collectively known as Bayer Crop Science. While in these roles, her efforts focused on connecting the food, nutrition, culinary, and agriculture communities for greater understanding, collaboration, and innovation. Wendy returned to IFIC after a previous tenure from 2000–2012, including service as Senior Director, Health & Wellness. While at IFIC, she directed food and nutrition communication strategies, including consumer research, opinion leader and media outreach, as well as publications and partnerships, for multiple food, agriculture, and nutrition issues. Wendy earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Nutrition and Exercise Science from the University of Missouri, Columbia and James Madison University, respectively. She completed her dietetic internship at Yale-New Haven Hospital — an affiliate of the Yale University School of Medicine.

Katharina Kopp is the Deputy Director and Director for Policy at the Center for Digital Democracy, advocating for data justice and privacy. With a background in advocacy, academia, policy analysis, and corporate leadership, she brings a multifaceted approach to her work. At CDD, she leads efforts to address the risks of Big Data, AI-driven technologies, and digital marketing, focusing on their impact on privacy, equity, autonomy, and social justice. Her work emphasizes public policy solutions and corporate accountability to counter systemic inequities. For decades, Dr. Kopp (CIPP/US, CIPP/G) has been an advocate for privacy and data justice. In the 1990s, she worked with the Center for Media Education, playing a key role in shaping policy during the passage and implementation of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). She has held leadership roles at the Aspen Institute, Benton Foundation, Health Privacy Project, and Center for Democracy and Technology and served as Vice President at American Express, leading its global privacy risk management program. Dr. Kopp holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in communications and public policy from the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication and a degree from Queen Mary College, University of London. A first-generation American, she is fluent in German and lives in Washington, D.C.

SPEAKER BIOS

Valerie Lacarte is a Senior Policy Analyst with MPI's U.S. Immigration Policy Program, where she contributes to research design and conducts data analysis on a range of issues, including native-immigrant gaps in socioeconomic outcomes and access to public benefits for vulnerable immigrant and humanitarian populations. Prior to joining MPI, Dr. Lacarte was a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Women's Policy Research where she conducted empirical analysis on women's economic security, including the gender wage gap, paid family leave, entrepreneurship, and public-health expenditures. Previously, she worked at the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank, where she gained expertise on regional integration, with a focus on the Caribbean. Dr. Lacarte earned a BA in economics from Université du Québec à Montréal, an MSc in economics from Université de Montréal, and a PhD in economics from American University. For her dissertation, she used a mixed-methods approach to study the integration of Caribbean immigrants into the U.S. labor market and the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, and cultural gender norms.

Vanessa García Larsen is the Unit Chief, Risk Factors Unit, Department of Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health at the the Pan American Health Organization.

Peter Lurie (he/him/his) is the President and Executive Director of CSPI. He has overall responsibility for CSPI's operations in both program (national, state, and local policy and advocacy; legislative and regulatory affairs; agricultural biotechnology; and Litigation) and business (marketing; development; human resources; finance; customer service; and information systems). He also oversees CSPI's science and communications activities and is the Executive Editor of Nutrition Action. He works closely with CSPI's Board of Directors and represents CSPI before the public, funders, and the press.

Maricel V. Maffini, Ph.D. is an Independent Consultant from Frederick, Maryland. She has more than 25 years of research experience in the fields of carcinogenesis and breast cancer in particular, reproductive biology and endocrine disruption. For the past 14 years, her work has focused on food chemical safety and regulation. She is a member of the Food Packaging Forum Science Advisory Board and a Fellow of Collegium Ramazzini. Maricel has authored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, blogs, and book chapters.

Jerold Mande is CEO of Nourish Science; Adjunct Professor of Nutrition, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; and a Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University. Professor Mande has a wealth of expertise and experience in national public health and food policy. He served in senior policymaking positions for three presidents at USDA, FDA, and OSHA helping lead landmark public health initiatives. In 2009, he was appointed by President Obama as USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety. In 2011, he moved to USDA's Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, where he spent six years working to improve the health outcomes of the nation's \$100 billion investment in 15 nutrition programs. During President Clinton's administration, Mr. Mande was Senior Advisor to the FDA commissioner where he helped shape national policy on nutrition, food safety, and tobacco. He also served on the White House staff as a health policy advisor and was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Occupational Health at the Department of Labor. During the George H.W. Bush administration he led the graphic design of the iconic Nutrition Facts label at FDA, for which he received the Presidential Design Award. Mr. Mande began his career as a legislative assistant for Al Gore in the U.S. House and Senate, managing Gore's health and environment agenda, and helping Gore write the nation's organ donation and transplantation laws. Mr. Mande earned a Master's of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Science in nutritional science from the University of Connecticut. Prior to his current academic appointments, he served on the faculty at the Tufts, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, and Yale School of Medicine.

Nicole Melia is the Food Service Supervisor of the Great Valley School District in Malvern, Pennsylvania. Nicole is responsible for the overall operation of the School Food and Nutrition Department with approximately 4500 students in grades K-12 in the Great Valley Schools as well as providing meals for private schools through the satellite meal program. They also have a robust farm-to-school program. Nicole has been working in school nutrition since 2009. She has been active in SNAPa and on the SNAPa Board of Directors since 2013. She has served as the State President of the School Nutrition Association of PA, Conference Chair, and is the current Public Policy and Legislative Chair. She also is a member of the Association of School Business Officials and the Pennsylvania School Business Officials. For the past five years she has served as the Lead Agent for a buying cooperative. She received a BS and Master of Science degree in Nutrition at West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

Nell Menefee-Libey serves as senior public policy manager for the National WIC Association, the membership organization and advocacy voice of the 12,000 public health nutrition service provider agencies who serve over 6.7 million mothers, babies, and young children participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). In her role, Nell works to build support for WIC on Capitol Hill and in the Administration, as well as representing NWA in a variety of cross-cutting, anti-poverty coalitions. Prior to joining NWA, Nell worked on maternal and child health policy at 1,000 Days and served as Congressional staff. She has a degree in the study of women and gender from Smith College.

Dariusz Mozaffarian is a cardiologist, public health scientist, and Director of the Food is Medicine Institute at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. He is Dean Emeritus and Jean Mayer Professor at the Friedman School, Professor of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine, and attending physician in cardiology at Tufts Medical Center. He is a globally recognized leader in the science of nutrition, cardiometabolic diseases, policy, and Food is Medicine, aiming to create the evidence and translation for a food system that is nutritious, equitable, and sustainable. Dr. Mozaffarian has authored nearly 600 scientific publications and is one of the top cited researchers in medicine. He has served in numerous advisory roles, including currently serving on the President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition, and his work has been featured in an array of media outlets. Thomson Reuters has named him as one of the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds. Dr. Mozaffarian received his B.S. in biological sciences from Stanford University, M.D. from Columbia University, and Doctorate in Public Health from Harvard University; and clinical training in internal medicine at Stanford University and in cardiology at the University of Washington. He is married, has three children, and actively trains as a Fourth Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo.

Aviva Musicus, ScD is the Science Director of Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), a nonprofit organization that aims to improve population health by advocating for evidence-based and community-informed policies on nutrition, food safety and health; holding government agencies and corporations to account; and empowering consumers with independent, unbiased information to live healthier lives. As the leader of CSPI's Science Department, Dr. Musicus's goal is to ensure that CSPI relies on the best available scientific evidence and rigorous scientific methods to inform its advocacy. She additionally manages CSPI's advocacy on food labeling, food additives, new food technologies, and sodium and added sugar reduction. Dr. Musicus is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She has conducted extensive research on food labeling, food marketing, federal nutrition assistance programs, and institutional food procurement. One of the main goals of her research is to understand how to communicate nutrition and environmental sustainability information to consumers to help them make more informed decisions. Dr. Musicus holds a doctorate in Nutrition from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Yale University.

John Myron currently serves as a Legislative Assistant for Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee, Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro (CT-03). In his role, John is the lead policy staffer on the FDA and food safety, labor, education, agriculture, nutrition and hunger, Social Security/retirement, LGBTQI+ issues, and the Congresswoman's Working Families Agenda which includes the Paycheck Fairness Act to codify equal pay for equal work, the FAMILY Act to ensure paid family and medical leave, the Healthy Families Act to guarantee paid sick leave, and the Schedules that Work Act to help ensure employees have more certainty about their work schedules and incomes. Prior to joining Congresswoman DeLauro's office, John worked for Congressman David Cicilline from Rhode Island. John is a native of Massachusetts and a graduate of Boston College.

Jennie Norka is the Senior Director of Scientific and Regulatory Affairs at the American Frozen Food Institute (AFFI), where she leads efforts to advance food safety, nutrition, and regulatory priorities in the frozen food industry. With a background in food science, public health, and nutrition, she collaborates with federal agencies, nonprofits, and industry stakeholders to support research, policy advocacy, and consumer education. Her work in nutrition focuses on expanding access to frozen foods through federal feeding programs, supporting consumer choice and dietary health, creating nutrition resources, and advancing research on frozen foods. Jennie holds a Master of Public Health in Nutrition from UNC-Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Science in Food Science from Purdue University. Her experience spans community nutrition programs, food safety, quality assurance, and training development.

Haley Nicholson has worked in federal and state policy and advocacy for over a decade, focusing on health and human services, foreign affairs, and financial policy. She has done policy education and outreach in the nonprofit sector and Capitol Hill. Haley has provided policy guidance and strategic planning for nonprofit, private, and foreign government stakeholders. She has several years of experience managing staff and helping them grow their policy acumen and professional networks. She graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelor's in English and International Affairs and has a Master's in Public Management from the Johns Hopkins University.

Anthony (Tony) Pavel guides clients through a comprehensive array of food and drug regulatory matters with his extensive knowledge of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations related to food (including animal food and pet food), food additives and ingredients, dietary supplements, and cosmetics. In addition to FDA matters, Tony assists clients with issues related to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other regulatory bodies around the world. Tony counsels clients in obtaining the authorization of new food ingredients, complying with manufacturing requirements, promotional and labeling claims, and regulatory compliance within the global supply chain. Clients seek his advice in navigating self-determined Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) positions and submitting GRAS Notices, New Dietary Ingredient Notifications (NDINs), food additive petitions (FAPs), and color additive petitions (CAPs) to FDA. He also helps clients navigate recall and market withdrawal strategies, import detentions, seizures, and alleged food tampering. Prior to joining Keller and Heckman, Tony was in private practice at a major international law firm, followed by in-house positions leading a global food law team at a major food, agricultural, and industrial products producer and Deputy General Counsel, Global Food Law for a consumer biology startup. Tony's in-house corporate experience helped shape his approach to practical, actionable advice and effective solutions for clients. Tony is frequently invited to speak at domestic and global conferences on food ingredients, food additives, and related policy matters.

SPEAKER BIOS

Ian Prince is professional staff with the House Committee on Education and Workforce, working under the last two Republican chairpersons. There he manages federal child nutrition and human services policy and programs with oversight of USDA and HHS. He was previously legislative staff to Senator John Boozman (AR) and has worked program and grant management roles in non-profit and higher education spaces. Ian holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Grove City College and a Master of Divinity from Covenant Theological Seminary.

Lisa Quigley serves as the Director of the anti-hunger efforts for Tusk Philanthropies, working to combat food insecurity through coordinated campaigns across the country and increase the federal commitment to anti-hunger efforts. Lisa comes to Tusk Philanthropies with over three decades of leadership in politics and policy, most recently in Tennessee. She worked in the US House of Representatives for thirty years, for four members of Congress, including two members of the House leadership. Lisa is a voting rights expert and has been active for over a decade in efforts to expand Medicaid and combat poverty. She previously founded a program at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars that connected US and Mexican officials on issues of bilateral concern. She has advised politicians at all levels of government, including mayors and presidential candidates. Lisa is a California native and a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. She serves on various non-profit boards in Nashville.

Krystal Register, MS, RDN, LDN is the Director of Health and Well-being at FMI - The Food Industry Association. She serves as the lead and issue expert for health and well-being programs and activities, nutrition policy, operations, and communication issues for FMI members. Krystal was a retail dietitian with Wegmans for 12 years and made significant contributions to company-wide wellness programs, health messaging, community events, and local media response. Krystal's background includes environmental and nutrition science studies with degrees from the College of William and Mary and James Madison University.

Brian Ronholm is the Director of Food Policy for Consumer Reports. He leads CR's advocacy efforts to advance a safe and healthy food system. Brian brings deep legislative and regulatory experience in food policy to CR. He also writes and speaks extensively on food policy issues, with a particular emphasis on emerging technologies, food safety modernization, and pending regulatory policies facing the food industry. During his tenure as Deputy Under Secretary, Food Safety, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Brian provided leadership, management, and oversight of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the public health agency with more than 9,000 employees responsible for ensuring the safety of meat, poultry, catfish, and processed egg products. In addition to overseeing FSIS, he chaired the U.S. Codex Policy Steering Committee, an interagency partnership that engages stakeholders in the advancement of science-based international food safety standards to facilitate fair trade, and served as Chair of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF), which provides impartial scientific advice to federal agencies for use in developing integrated food safety systems. He also served as Agriculture Appropriations Associate in the office of U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, where he managed and coordinated activities involving key legislative initiatives for food and nutrition issues. Prior to joining CR, Brian most recently served as Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati, and he served in the same senior position at Arent Fox LLP. He serves as a part-time lecturer at Northeastern University in the College of Professional Studies, and he also sits on the board for the SBLA, a non-profit charitable organization for professionals working in sports whose goal is to provide children with the resources necessary to engage in unique sports experiences.

Jessica Schulken moved to Washington from Kentucky in 1999 and began her career as a Presidential Management Intern at the National Institutes of Health. In 2001, she joined the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee as a professional staff member on the Agriculture Subcommittee, where she focused on funding the research, conservation, food safety, and domestic nutrition accounts at USDA, as well as FDA. Jessica was promoted to Staff Director of the Subcommittee in 2012, and in that role was responsible for managing the policy and funding priorities for the entire bill, working with all Senate offices on their appropriations priorities for USDA and FDA, as well as negotiating with the House of Representatives during annual conference negotiations. During her tenure on Capitol Hill, Jessica worked for Senators Kohl, Pryor, Merkley, Byrd, Inouye, Mikulski and Leahy. Along with routine appropriations bills, she also drafted and negotiated numerous supplemental funding bills. Jessica joined The Russell Group in 2018, providing government relations and advocacy services for food and agriculture related clients. She lives with her husband Chad and their children in Falls Church, VA.

Sarah Sorscher is an experienced advocate with a passion for public health who fights for a safer, healthier, more transparent food system by promoting consumer safeguards with Congress, federal agencies, and state and local governments. As Director of Regulatory Affairs, she manages CSPI's policy work related to food safety and labeling, allergens, food additives, dietary supplements, and other consumer products. Her work includes serving on federal advisory committees, testifying before Congress and federal agencies, offering technical advice to policymakers, and providing commentary to the media on consumer and food safety issues. Prior to joining CSPI, Sarah worked on health and safety issues at Public Citizen and served as a law clerk for the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. She holds a J.D. from the Harvard Law School, an M.P.H. from Harvard School of Public Health, and a B.A. from Amherst College.

Katherine Thomas serves as senior professional staff on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry for Chairman John Boozman covering nutrition and food aid issues. She previously served as a legislative assistant on the committee during the tenure of former Chairman Pat Roberts, during the 2015 child nutrition reauthorization process and 2018 Farm Bill. Prior to re-joining the committee, she was a legislative assistant in the office of Senator Ben Sasse, deputy legislative director for Representative Tracey Mann, and she began her career as a staff assistant for then-Representative Mike Pompeo.

Precious Tshabalala is an economist with the Food & Environment program at the Union of Concerned Scientists where she conducts research and analyses in agricultural sciences and economics to support a science-based vision for a better US food system and to advocate for policies that ensure affordable and healthy food for all. Prior to joining UCS, Dr. Tshabalala was a food systems specialist at Cornell University's Cooperative Extension, where she was responsible for developing programming aimed at creating food supply chain coordination connecting New York State farmers to New York State markets.

Kenny Torrella is a senior reporter at Vox, with a focus on animal welfare and the future of meat. He co-writes Processing Meat, Vox's biweekly newsletter exploring how the meat and dairy industries shape our politics, culture, environment, and more.

Roberta Wagner is the Senior Vice President, Regulatory and Scientific Affairs for the International Dairy Foods Association. Prior to IDFA, Roberta served as vice president of regulatory and technical affairs for the Consumer Brands Association, formerly the Grocery Manufacturers Association since 2019. Wagner spent 33 years in public service, most recently as the assistant administrator of the Office of Policy and Program Development at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Previously, Wagner served as the deputy assistant administrator for the Office of Field Operations at FSIS where she oversaw a workforce of 7,800 inspection program personnel, including consumer safety officers, public health veterinarians and food inspectors. Wagner also spent more than 25 years with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), working in a variety of roles from analytical chemist to associate commissioner for Food Safety Modernization Act implementation.

Lori Wallach is the director of the Rethink Trade program at AELP and a 30-year veteran of international and U.S. congressional trade battles. She was named to "Politico's 50" list of thinkers, doers and visionaries transforming American politics for her leadership in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) debate. A lawyer, Lori is the author of *The Rise and Fall of Fast Track Trade Authority and Whose Trade Organization? A Comprehensive Guide to the WTO*. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Wellesley College. Before law school, she worked on Capitol Hill, in political campaigns, and in television news.

Jessica Wasserman is the founder and CEO of WassermanRowe, a DC-based law and government relations firm providing services to Food and Drug Administration-regulated industries, including food and supplements. She advises on GRAS and NDI notifications; GMP compliance, food safety, and labeling; claims/ FDA Warning Letters; GMO and organic rules; and provides regulatory advocacy including FDA's healthy label rule and the proposed Front of Pack proposed rule. Ultra Processed Foods and MAHA priorities are new areas of knowledge. The firm's expertise also includes global affairs, trade/tariffs and international regulatory analysis and compliance. Jessica has advised nonprofits on consumer education and communications. She has worked in Congress, federal agencies (at both career and political levels) and major law firms. Jessica is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School.

Mason Weeda advises businesses on laws and regulations surrounding the manufacture, marketing, promotion, and distribution of FDA regulated products. Mason also provides counsel to trade associations and commodity groups that include FDA regulated industry and advises business on transactional matters concerning FDA regulations and related requirements.

Susan Weinstock is the CEO of the Consumer Federation of America. Previously, she was vice president of financial resilience programming at AARP, responsible for the overall strategic direction of AARP programs and education competencies to improve the financial security of persons age 50 and older. Prior to AARP, Susan worked at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. As the director of the office of consumer policy, she focused on emerging trends and the growing use of technology and data in the provision of consumer financial products and services. Previously, she directed The Pew Charitable Trusts' Consumer Banking Project, which advocates for policies that protect American consumers and their money. As the lead on Pew's efforts to improve the safety and transparency of consumer banking products, she directed a team of researchers who identified current practices and consumer needs to inform and promote policy solutions. Prior to Pew, Susan was the financial reform campaign director at the Consumer Federation of America, leading media, coalition, public education, and grassroots efforts to promote consumer financial protection in the Dodd-Frank Act. She has more than 20 years of advocacy, communications, research, grassroots and legislative experience working to protect consumers.

Ben Winters is the Director of AI and Privacy at the Consumer Federation of America. Ben leads CFA's advocacy efforts related to data privacy and automated systems and works with subject matter experts throughout CFA to integrate concerns about privacy and AI in order to better advocate for consumers. Ben is also an adjunct professor at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. Prior to CFA, Ben worked at the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, where he was an Attorney Advisor in the policy section focusing on algorithmic harm in the civil rights context and was Senior Counsel at the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) where he led the AI/Human Rights project and advocated for accountability through legislative and direct legal action. Ben is a graduate of Benjamin N. Cardozo Law School and the SUNY Oneonta and is a member of the New York State and District of Columbia bars.

ATTENDEE LIST

Abiola Afolayan
Bread for the World
aafolayan@bread.org

Uche Akobundu
Meals on Wheels America
uche@mealsonwheelsamerica.org

Melanie Benesh
Environmental Working Group
mbenesh@ewg.org

Paige Beyer
Former USDA
paigehbeyer@gmail.com

Salaam Bhatti
Food Research and Action Center
sbhatti@frac.org

Claire Bishop
Picard Kentz & Rowe LLP
cbishop@pkrllp.com

Jane Black
Consumed
jane@janeblack.net

Shirley Blakely
Blakely Associates
shirley_blakely@yahoo.com

Caitlin Boon
Mars, Inc.
caitlin.boon@effem.com

Helena Bottemiller Evich
Food Fix
helena@foodfix.co

Philip Brasher
Agri-Pulse Communications
philip@agri-pulse.com

Heather Bruskin
Montgomery County Office of Food Systems
Resilience
heather.bruskin@montgomerycountymd.gov

Emma Bryan
Nestle, USA
emma.bryan@us.nestle.com

Mara Burr
Consumer Brands Association
mburr@consumerbrandsassociation.org

Lina Bush
SGS North America
lina.bush@sgs.com

Kris Butler
US FDA Human Foods Program
kbutler523@comcast.net

Dennie Byam
The Lawyering Dietitian LLC
denniebyam@yahoo.com

Jen Cadenhead
Columbia University
jwc2151@tc.columbia.edu

Emily Callahan
Food is Medicine Institute, Tufts University
emily.callahan@tufts.edu

Dominique Carter
Lewis-Burke Associates
dcarter@lewis-burke.com

Michelle Caruso
Frederick County Food Council
mcaruso@fcfoodcouncil.org

Harold Chase
NSF
hchase@nsf.org

Sasha Chavkin
The Examination
sasha@theexamination.org

Jade Chong
The Campbells's Company
jade_chong@campbells.com

Sharon Cornelissen
Consumer Federation of America
scornelissen@consumerfed.org

Chris Costanzo
Food Systems News, Inc.
chris.costanzo@foodbanknews.org

Jeff Cronin
Center for Science in the Public Interest
jcronin@cspinet.org

Katya Cronin
George Washington University Law
katya_cronin@law.gwu.edu

Roger Cryan
American Farm Bureau Federation
rogerc@fb.org

Jennifer Dadak
The Campbells Company
Jennifer_Dadak@campbells.com

Kelly Dalton
Association of Public and Land-grant
Universities
kdalton@aplu.org

Meghan Davis
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public
Health
mdavis65@jhu.edu

Janet de Jesus
Office of Disease Prevention and Health
Promotion
janet.dejesus@hhs.gov

Stacy Dean
Global Food Institute, George Washington
University
stacy.dean@gwu.edu

Miguel Del Toro
Danone North America
miguel.deltoro@danone.com

Michael DeLong
Consumer Federation of America
mdelong@consumerfed.org

Adrianne DeLuca
BevNET.com Inc.
adeluca@bevnet.com

Joanna "Jo" Deming
Hope & Action Consulting
jo@hopeactionconsulting.com

Kathryn Deschenes
Danone NA
kathryn.deschenes@danone.com

Ray DeVigiliis
Reckitt/Mead Johnson Nutrition
ray.devigiliis@reckitt.com

Emily Dimiero
Cargill
emily_dimiero@cargill.com

Garrett Downs
E&E News
gdowns@eenews.net

Joy Dubost
NJOY Health & Nutrition LLC
joy.dubost@gmail.com

Colby Duren
Duren Policy Strategies, LLC
colbyduren@gmail.com

Lidan Du-Skabrin
USDA FAS AED
lidan.du@gmail.com

Sara Eckhouse
FoodShot Global
sara@foodshot.org

Karen Ehrens
Alliance to End Hunger
kehrens@alliancetoendhunger.org

Jack Ewart
jacktewart@gmail.com

Liora Fiksel
Environmental Defense Fund
lfiksel@edf.org

Colin Finan
Former USDA
cfinan81@gmail.com

Rachel Fisher
Office of Disease Prevention and Health
Promotion
rachel.fisher@hhs.gov

Ellie Flacke
Milken Institute School of Public Health
eflacke@gwu.edu

Marian Flaxman
Joan Klein Jacobs Center for Precision
Nutrition and Health
mf8@cornell.edu

Sheila Fleischhacker
United States Department of Agriculture
Sheila.Fleischhacker@usda.gov

Devin Foote
WK Kellogg Foundation
devin.foote@wkkf.org

Chris Forgues
Cargill
chris_forgues@cargill.com

Heather Garlich
FMI - The Food Industry Association
hgarlich@fmi.org

Becky Garrison Warfel, RDN, LD
NASDA - National Association of State
Departments of Agriculture
becky.garrison@nasda.org

Constance Gewa
Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research
cgewa@foundationfar.org

Abbie Gibbs
Environmental Working Group
abbie.gibbs@ewg.org

Nkenge Gibson
Government Accountability Office
gibsonnn@gao.gov

Alan Goldblatt
National Cooperative Bank (CFO)
agoldblatt@ncb.coop

Stephanie Goodwin
Danone North America
stephanie.goodwin@danone.com

Jessica Gould
Littleton Public Schools
jgould@lps.k12.co.us

Ben Graff
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
bgraft@eatright.org

Thomas Gremillion
Consumer Federation of America
tgremillion@consumerfed.org

Jillian Griffith
Amazon
jdgriff@amazon.com

Marie Gualtieri
National WIC Association
mgualtieri@nwica.org

Miriam Guggenheim
Covington & Burling LLP
mguggenheim@cov.com

Natalia Guzman
American Heart Association
natalia.guzman@heart.org

Melissa Halas
Non-UPF Program
melissah@nonupfprogram.org

Miquela Hanselman
National Milk Producers Federation
mhanselman@nmpf.org

Karen Hansen-Kuhn
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
khansenkuhn@iatp.org

Alison Hard
National WIC Association
ahard@nwica.org

Stephanie Harris
FMI
sbharris@fmi.org

Cameron Harsh
World Animal Protection US
cameronharsh@worldanimalprotection.us

Alissa Haskins
alissa_haskins@yahoo.com

Alexandria Hast
The Campbell's Company
alexandria_hast@campbells.com

Gabby Headrick
Milken Institute School of Public Health
g.headrick@gwu.edu

Rebecca Heidkamp
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of
Public Health
rheidka1@jhu.edu

Lisa Held
Civil Eats
lisa@civileats.com

Sam Herring
Ventura Foods
samherring96@gmail.com

Cliff Hight
Consumer Movement Archives
chight@ksu.edu

Chesha Hodge
Greater Newark Conservancy - Coalition
for Healthy Food in Newark Schools
chodge@citybloom.org

Stephanie Hodges, MS, MPH, RDN
The Nourished Principles
stephanie@thenourishedprinciples.com

Richie Holmberg
George Washington University
r.holmberg@gwmail.gwu.edu

Jenny Hopkinson
FGS Global
Jenny.hopkinson@fgsglobal.com

Kelly Horton
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
khorton@eatright.org

Caroline Howe
DC Food Policy Council
caroline.howe@dc.gov

Andrea Hsieh
Nutrition Science & Innovation
andreahsieh@gmail.com

Rachel Inman
Former USDA FNS
Rachel.inman.19@gmail.com

Caresse Jackman
Gray Television/InvestigateTV
caresse.jackman@investigatetv.com

Michael Jacobson
National Food Museum
michael.jacobson@nationalfoodmuseum.org

Rhea Jayaswal
Center for Science in the Public Interest
rjayaswal@cspinet.org

Sara John
Center for Science in the Public Interest
sjohn@cspinet.org

Beth Johnson
Food Directions, LLC
bethjohnson@fooddirectionsdc.com

Joelle Johnson
Center for Science in the Public Interest
jjohnson@cspinet.org

Stephanie Johnson
National Grocers Association
sjohnson@nationalgrocers.org

Taylor Johnson
Bread for the World
tjohnson@bread.org

Ahmed Kablan
USAID
Ahmed.kablan@me.com

Philip Kahn-Pauli
The Center for Science in the Public
Interest (CSP)
pkahnppauli@cspinet.org

Patty Keane
pattykeaneRD@gmail.com

Suzu Khimm
NBC News
suzu.khimm@nbcuni.com

Mary Kloeppinger
Family Care Health Centers
mkloeppinger@fchcstl.org

Katharina Kopp
Center for Digital Democracy
kkopp@democraticmedia.org

Aditi Kulkarni
Michigan State University Extension
kulkar86@msu.edu

Corby Kummer
Aspen Institute
Corby.Kummer@aspeninstitute.org

Valerie Lacarte
Migration Policy Institute
vlacarte@migrationpolicy.org

Allison Lacko
(open to work)
Allison.M.Lacko@gmail.com

Julia Landcastle
National Grocers Association
jlandcastle@nationalgrocers.org

Marie Latulippe
Institute for the Advancement of Food and
Nutrition Science
mlatulippe@iafns.org

Cristina Lee
Stanford University
crisjlee@stanford.edu

Sarah Levy
Global Food IQ
slevy@globalfoodiq.com

Alexandra Lewin-Zwerdling
The Aspen Institute - Food & Society -
Fruitful LLC
alexandralewin@gmail.com

Gary Libretti
Michigan State University
libretti@msu.edu

Sophia Lin
Picard Kentz & Rowe LLP
slin@pkrllp.com

Emily Lindauer
Consumer Federation of America
elindauer@consumerfed.org

Charlotte Litschel
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
charlitschel@gmail.com

Anna Marie Lowery
Consumer Federation of America
alowery@consumerfed.org

Olivia Lucanie
Torrey Advisory Group
olucanie@torreydc.com

John Luedke
Mars, Incorporated
john.luedke@effem.com

Rachel Lyons
UFCW International Union
rlyons@ufcw.org

ATTENDEE LIST

Maricel Maffini Independent Consultant drmvma@gmail.com	Aviva Musicus Center for Science in the Public Interest amusicus@cspinet.org	Kelly Rogers Victor CFA krogersvictor@gmail.com	Marla Valentine Oceana mvalentine@oceana.org
Melissa Maitin-Shepard MMS Health Strategies, LLC mmshealthstrategies@gmail.com	Sorrel Namaste Independent forsorrel@yahoo.com	Brian Ronholm Consumer Reports brian.ronholm@consumer.org	Kendra Valle Danone North America kendra.valle@nutricia.com
Laura Makaroff American Cancer Society Laura.Makaroff@cancer.org	DeAnna Nara Center for Science in the Public Interest Dnara@cspinet.org	Onyx Rothman Sunwater Institute onyxrothman@gmail.com	Hanneke Van Dyke Hannekevan@gmail.com
Jerold Mande Nourish Science jmande@nourishscience.org	Nicole Negowetti Helena nicole@helena.org	Jared Rothstein Consumer Brands Association jrothstein@consumerbrandsassociation.org	Kimberly Vo Vo.kimberly@gmail.com
Shelley Maniscalco Nutrition In Demand Shelley@NutritionInDemand.com	Tom Neltner Unleaded Kids tneltner@unleadedkids.org	Sylvia Rowe Tufts University rowe@srsrstrategy.com	Roberta Wagner International Dairy Foods Association rwagner@idfa.org
Meghan Maroney Center for Science in the Public Interest mmaroney@cspinet.org	Ven Neralla Federal Street Strategies ven@federalstreetstrategies.com	Natalie Rubino Consumer Brands Association nrubino@consumerbrandsassociation.org	Chris Waldrop Food and Drug Administration christopher.waldrop@fda.hhs.gov
Maya Maroto FDA maya.maroto@fda.hhs.gov	Haley Nicholson United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) hnicolson@ufcw.org	Carmen Ruiz Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research cruiz@foundationfar.org	Kaade Wallace Federal Street Strategies kaade@federalstreetstrategies.com
Monica Marshall Ruder Finn monica.marshall@ruderfinn.com	Jamie Nickel Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR) jnickel@foundationfar.org	Humay Sadig Milken Institute School of Public Health hsadig369@gwu.edu	Lori Wallach Rethink Trade khettinga@rethinktrade.org
Abigail Martone Greater Newark Conservancy amartone@citybloom.org	Amaris Noguera-Bradley Eat Well Global abradley@eatwellglobal.com	Lee Sanders FMI - The Food Industry Association lsanders@fmi.org	Jessica Wasserman WassermanRowe LLC jessica@wassermandc.com
Michelle Matto International Dairy Foods Association mmatto@idfa.org	Jennifer Norka American Frozen Food Institute jnorka@affi.com	Marlene Schmidt Nestlé marlene.schmidt@us.nestle.com	James C. Webster Agri-Pulse websterj@aol.com
Peter Matz FMI pmat@fmi.org	Grace Norman Baylor University Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty grace_norman@baylor.edu	Jane Schmitz From Now On Fund jane@fnofund.org	Mason Weeda OFW Law mweeda@ofwlaw.com
Katie McCann Consumer Federation of America kmccann@consumerfed.org	Sarah Ohlhorst American Society for Nutrition sohlhorst@nutrition.org	Jessica Schulken The Russell Group jschulken@russellgroupdc.com	Ethan Weiland Consumer Federation of America eweiland@consumerfed.org
Erin McCarthy FMI - The Food Industry Association emccarthy@fmi.org	Tony Pavel Keller and Heckman LLP pavel@khlaw.com	Colin Schwartz American Heart Association colin.schwartz@heart.org	Susan Weinstock Consumer Federation of America sweinstock@consumerfed.org
Meghan McDermott Commongrounds Cooperative meghan.mcdermott14@gmail.com	Kristina Peterson The Wall Street Journal kristina.peterson@wsj.com	Sakeenah Shabazz Bread for the World Policy and Research Institute ssakeenah@bread.org	Ingrid Weiss Independent Weiss.ingrid@gmail.com
Brandon McFadden University of Arkansas mcfadden@uark.edu	Jennifer Phillips International Food Information Council phillips@ific.org	Jessi Silverman Center for Science in the Public Interest jsilverman@cspinet.org	Madison West Trust for America's Health mwest@tfah.org
Brian McKeon National Confectioners Association Brian.mckeon@candyusa.com	Katrina Piercy Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Katrina.Piercy@hhs.gov	Sosthene Siyou University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences sosthene.siyoun@und.edu	Katie Wilson Urban School Food Alliance kwilson@urbanschoolfoodalliance.org
Matt McKinney FMI - The Food Industry Association mmckinney@fmi.org	Alyssa Pike IFIC pike@ific.org	Charles Smith Tusk Strategies charles@tuskstrategies.com	Rees Wilson Environmental Working Group rees.wilson@ewg.org
Nicole Melia School Nutrition Association of Pennsylvania advocacy@snapa.org	Cassidy Pont Cargill Cassidy_pont@cargill.com	Paige Smoyer Unilever North America paige.smoyer@unilever.com	Ben Winters Consumer Federation of America bwinters@consumerfed.org
Nell Menefee-Libey National WIC Association nmenefeelibey@nwica.org	Ellie Portillo Ferrero ellie.portillo@ferrero.com	Sarah Sorscher CSPI ssorscher@cspinet.org	Rebecca Wolf Food & Water Watch rwolf@fwwwatch.org
Andrea Meza Government Accountability Project AndreaM@whistleblower.org	Robert Post Rutgers University robert.post@foodtritionsolutions.com	Erika Spencer Greater Newark Conservancy espencer@citybloom.org	Lauren Wustenberg Fork Legal Design PLLC lauren@forklegal.org
Rachel Micah-Jones Centro de los Derechos del Migrante rachel@cdmigrante.org	Wes Pyron Environmental Working Group (EWG) wes.pyron@ewg.org	Sarah Stanley Ruder Finn sarah.stanley@ruderfinn.com	Mary Emma Young American Frozen Food Institute meyoung@affi.com
Chris Michalak UFCW International Union cmichalakis@ufcw.org	Lisa Quigley Tusk Philanthropies lisa@tuskphilanthropies.org	Milton Stokes Sensei Ag miltonstokes@gmail.com	Lynn Yu The Kraft Heinz Company lynn.yu@kraftheinz.com
Allison Mikita FoodMinds amikita@foodminds.com	Mary Pat Raimondi Bertacchi Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics mpraimondi@gmail.com	Arianne Stumpf Nestle USA Arianne.Stumpf@us.nestle.com	Jasmine Yunus Government Accountability Project jaslyunus@gmail.com
April Milevski The NJ Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics aprilmilevski@gmail.com	Joanna Ratigan American Heart Association Joanna.Ratigan@heart.org	Julia Swart University of Tennessee Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs jswart3@vols.utk.edu	
Farida Mohamedshah National Confectioners Association farida.mohamedshah@candyusa.com	Gabrielle Reagan Temple University gabrielle.reagan@temple.edu	Sherry Tanumihardjo The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System sherry@nutrisci.wisc.edu	
Stacy Molander Trust for America's Health smolander@tfah.org	Krystal Register FMI - The Food Industry Association kregister@fmi.org	Cheryl Toner American Heart Association cheryl.toner@heart.org	
Benjamin Moss Consumer Federation of America bmoss@consumerfed.org	Wendy Reinhardt Kapsak International Food Information Council (IFIC) Wendy@ific.org	Kenny Torrella Vox kenny.torrella@vox.com	
Dariush Mozaffarian Food is Medicine Institute lexi.cole@tufts.edu	Celine Reyes Chicago Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics cmreyes22@gmail.com	Betty Toto Food for Health, AIDS Healthcare Foundation betty.toto@ahf.org	
Jacob Multer Center for Science in the Public Interest jmulter@cspinet.org	Liz Richardson Amazon elizrics@amazon.com	Precious Tshabalala Union of Concerned Scientists ptshabalala@ucsusa.org	
Keyi Murofushi Johns Hopkins Health System nutritionk@gmail.com		Kara-Marie Urban Squire Patton Boggs kara-marie.urban@squirepb.com	

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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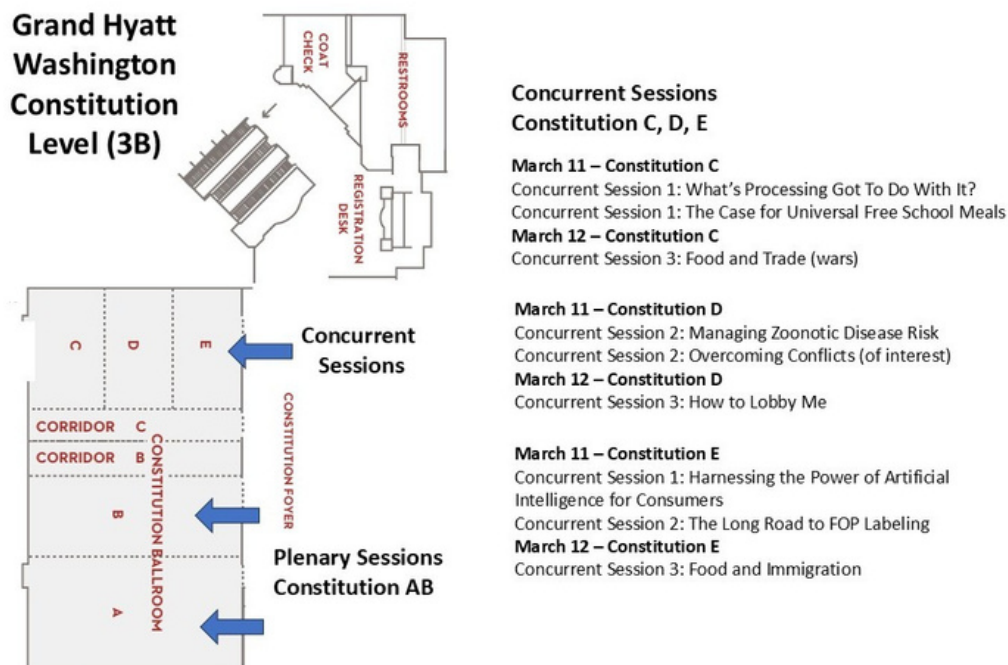
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