

September 9, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations United
States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop Jr.
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies United States House of
Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Fortenberry
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug Administration,
and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Leahy, Baldwin, DeLauro, and Bishop, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Members Hoeven, Granger, and Fortenberry:

The undersigned members of the Safe Food Coalition and other food safety, consumer, environmental, and public health organizations write to express our gratitude and support for critical food safety funding at the FDA in the (FY) 2022 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 4356/S. 2599).

We ask the committee to ensure the FDA is funded at least in the amount provided in the FY 2022 House Appropriations Bill,¹ and that the critical program funding for food safety identified in the House and Senate committee reports is maintained in the final appropriations package.

As the widespread availability of vaccines puts the end of the novel coronavirus pandemic within reach, the FDA now has the opportunity to bend the curve of foodborne illness by applying lessons learned during the pandemic to new regulatory approaches. These include data modernization to promote more

efficient and effective, risk-based enforcement, enhancing traceability to better respond to outbreaks and promote supply chain efficiency, and embarking on other new initiatives that lay the groundwork for a New Era of Smarter Food Safety.ⁱⁱ All of these efforts must be undertaken while the agency works to catch up with inspections and other responsibilities postponed during the pandemic.

These opportunities to improve our food system are reflected in the Presidential FY 2022 Budget, which requests an increase of \$343 million in budget authority for the FDA,ⁱⁱⁱ including \$45 million to advance the New Era of Smarter Food Safety, \$20 million for Emerging Chemical and Toxicology Issues, \$18 million for Maternal and Infant Health and Nutrition, and funding aligned with food safety for Data Modernization and Enhanced Technologies, Capacity Building, Pay Costs, Inspections, and Infrastructure, Buildings, and Facilities.^{iv}

We ask the committee to support the funding for FDA's foods budget offered in the FY 2022 House Appropriations Bill (H.R. 4356), which responds in part to the needs highlighted in the Presidential Budget by including \$257 million in new budget authority for the FDA.^v The House Committee Report also highlights specific funding for Food Traceability (\$9.5 million), a critical element of the agency's New Era for Smarter Food Safety, and the Closer to Zero initiative to reduce toxic metals in infant and toddler foods (\$12.9 million).^{vi}

While the FY2022 Senate Appropriations Bill (S. 2599)^{vii} offers a smaller increase to the overall FDA budget, the Senate Committee Report^{viii} highlights additional priorities for food safety, including additional support for the New Era for Smarter Food Safety (\$3 million), Data Modernization and Enhanced Technology (\$8 million), Animal Food Safety Oversight (\$7 million), Inspections (\$15 million), Emerging Chemical and Toxicological Issues (\$12.8 million), and Maternal and Infant Health (\$14.1 million), as well as funding for the Closer to Zero initiative (\$12.9 million).

We encourage the committee to ensure the FDA foods program is funded at the higher amount provided in (H.R. 4356),^{ix} and that the critical funding for food safety programs identified in the House and Senate committee reports is maintained in the final appropriations package.

We applaud you for your work to prioritize food safety in FY 2022 appropriations. The safety of our food remains a pressing concern for Americans, and we hope you continue to ensure adequate funding to the FDA to carry out its vital work.

Sincerely,

Association of Food and Drug Officials
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Center for Food Safety
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Consumer Federation of America
Environmental Working Group
Food & Water Watch
Government Accountability Project
STOP Foodborne Illness

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- i <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4356/text>.
 - ii <https://www.fda.gov/food/new-era-smarter-food-safety>.
 - iii <https://www.fda.gov/media/149616/download>.
 - iv <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/what-we-do-cfsan/presidents-fy-2022-budget-request-key-investments-food-safety>.
 - v <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP00/20210630/112874/HMKP-117-AP00-20210630-SD005.pdf>.
 - vi <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP00/20210630/112874/HMKP-117-AP00-20210630-SD005.pdf>.
 - vii <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2599>.
 - viii <https://www.congress.gov/117/crpt/srpt34/CRPT-117srpt34.pdf>.
 - ix <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4356/text>.