

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to you today to express our concerns regarding proposed revisions at the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to change the prescription of 100% juices in the WIC Food Package. It has been brought to our attention that USDA's proposed rulemaking fails to support the objectives of the White House Conference National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. In addition, the proposed rule will undermine the Strategy's critical components to support the National Salt and Sugar Reduction Initiative (NSSRI).

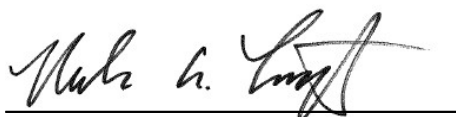
As you know, WIC serves roughly half the low-income babies and their mothers in the United States. Is it possible to explain to them how limiting access to nutritious foods, such as taking at least 16 half-cup servings of fruit a month and possibly 32 servings in exchange for a \$3.00 Cash Value Benefit (CVB) supports the objectives of the White House Conference National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health? Congress already fully funds the increased WIC CVB at the level the National Academy of Sciences recommended in their 2017 Food Package Report.

Furthermore, the proposed rule would be counterintuitive to the goals of the NSSRI. Industry data shared with our offices support the fact that 100% juice provides low-income families with a healthy, affordable alternative to sugar sweetened beverages. Limiting access to 100% juice could result in higher consumption of sugar sweetened beverages among children and actively work against the goals of the NSSRI.

Evidence supports juice in the WIC Food Package. 100% juice contributes to the overall consumption of fruits and vegetables and provides numerous nutritional advantages, such as increased whole fruit consumption and an enhancement of long-term dietary quality. Juice is easy, convenient, shelf-stable, cost-effective, and children like it. Please remove the proposed changes to the 100% Juice WIC prescription.

We look forward to your prompt response, and if you desire additional information on the focus group research, please do not hesitate to contact our offices.


Sincerely,



Nicholas A. Langworthy  
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress




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Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



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Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress




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Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



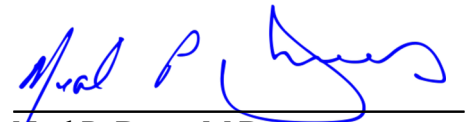
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Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress




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Bill Posey  
Member of Congress




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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress




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Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress




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John Rose  
Member of Congress



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C. Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



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Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



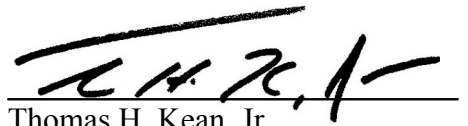
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Marcus J. Molinaro  
Member of Congress



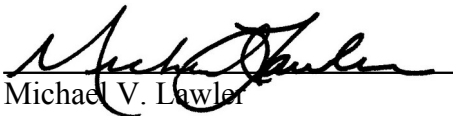
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