

July 13, 2020

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington DC 20201



Dear Secretary Azar,

The hard-working farmers of our nation pride themselves on the high-quality, nutritious, and affordable foods they produce to provide a vital dietary staple for families across the nation. Full-fat dairy products provide a nutrient-dense complete source of protein full of healthy fats our bodies need to promote a healthy weight and fend off chronic disease. However, under the current proposed draft of Dietary Guidelines for Americans, set to be published this fall, caps are still being placed on saturated fat despite ample research proving these recommendations are outdated

The Dietary Guidelines for America (DGA) sets our nation's leading nutrition policies. They directly influence WIC, SNAP, and school lunch programs, shaping the tastes and preferences of the next generation of consumers. The DGA program was introduced in 1980, yet public health has steadily declined in the 40 years since implementation. Childhood obesity and diabetes diagnoses have tripled, adult obesity rates have doubled, and 25 million American adults have diabetes. The current guidelines are not working.

The American Dairy Coalition and the dairy producers we represent, support the choice of offering whole milk in all daycare and school nutrition programs. Science concludes that full-fat dairy products not only improve nutrition, but also learning readiness, especially for those most nutritionally at-risk.

We ask that you intervene to ensure the publication of the DGA is updated to include the most recent scientific evidence on the benefits of saturated fats and the healthy role they play. We ask your office to review and address the flawed process and implement the recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) third-party review that Congress paid \$1M for in 2017, using our taxpayer money. We ask you to demand the caps on saturated fat be removed so that schools once again have the ability to provide students with whole milk. Americans deserve sound science, and we cannot afford to wait five more years to get this right.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laurie Fischer
CEO- American Dairy Coalition

July 13, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington DC 20250



Dear Secretary Perdue

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