



American Society for Nutrition  
*Excellence in Nutrition Research and Practice*

April 28, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the American Society for Nutrition (ASN), I am writing to applaud the inclusion of the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger, and Health in the Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus Spending Package and to offer ASN's support for this important event. ASN is a not-for-profit, professional scientific society dedicated to bringing together the world's top researchers to advance the science, education, and practice of nutrition. ASN has more than 8,000 members around the world, working throughout government, clinical practice, academia, and industry, to conduct research to achieve the ASN vision of "A Healthier World Through Evidence-Based Nutrition".

It has been fifty-three years since President Nixon last convened a White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health. Nutrition science has evolved considerably since that time, and so too have our nation's food, nutrition, health, and hunger challenges. Just as the first White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health significantly impacted federal policies that shaped the nutrition, health, and wellbeing of Americans, the 2022 conference has the same opportunity to profoundly impact the future health of our nation by improving nutrition security and diet-related disease prevention. We appreciate your recognition of this opportunity and your commitment to improving the health of America.

ASN and its members have devoted considerable time and focus to conducting and disseminating research on the issues of achieving nutrition security and diet-related chronic disease prevention, which should be focal points for a conference on food, nutrition, health, and hunger given their significant impact on the American population. Diet-related chronic diseases are a leading cause of death in the United States and research has shown that underrepresented populations, including communities of color and Tribal communities, are disproportionately affected by diet-related chronic diseases. One of the nutrition-related challenges faced by many low-income populations, including underrepresented groups, that has far-reaching consequences including diet-related chronic diseases is food and nutrition insecurity. The policy outcomes from this conference have the potential to address long-standing health inequities and disparities such as these and reduce health care costs. The outcomes of this conference should highlight the research gaps to help shape the future of nutrition research and advance nutrition science.

In this way, the conference will both highlight and advance the work of nutrition researchers and of organizations like ASN, and how nutrition research and update government programming. Ultimately, the outcomes from this conference will contribute to the prevention of diet-related chronic diseases such as obesity and health disease, as well as food and nutrition insecurity, and in that way, save lives and costs and help build a more equitable society. We look forward to lending our expertise to the conference. Thank you for your consideration of ASN's involvement and support.

Please contact Sarah Ohlhorst, MS, RD, ASN Chief Science Policy Officer (301-219-9890; [sohlhorst@nutrition.org](mailto:sohlhorst@nutrition.org)) with questions or requests for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Coates', followed by a stylized flourish or second signature.

Paul Coates, PhD  
2021-2022 President, American Society for Nutrition

Cc:

Susan Rice, Director, Domestic Policy Council  
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture  
Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health