

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2025

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

As Members of Congress and leaders of the Bipartisan Women's Caucus, we share your commitment to expanding access to nutritious foods and your concern regarding the state of nutrition in the United States. In an effort to improve health outcomes and address poor nutrition, we are writing to make you aware of the recently introduced Food Farmacy Act. This legislation would create a grant program to support food farmacies, which provide access to nutritious foods and nutrition counseling with the goal of improving health outcomes.

As you may know, more than 60 percent of adults in the United States have at least one diet-related chronic disease, including type 2 diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, some types of cancer, and many more.¹ Chronic disease has become the leading cause of illness, disability, and death in America, and we know that diet is a major risk factor.² Research shows that a healthy diet is associated with positive health outcomes across the board, and that a lack of access to nutritious foods is associated with increased risk of chronic illness. This lack of access to healthy foods poses a real cost to our communities, 90 percent of annual health care spending in the United States stems from chronic diseases, including \$237 billion spent on diabetes and \$400 billion on cardiovascular disease.³ We cannot afford to let chronic disease take more lives, and it is clear that expanding access to nutritious foods is going to be a major part of this effort.

We share this Administration's interest in addressing chronic disease through improving nutrition, and appreciate the May 2025 Make America Healthy Again Report's emphasis on the importance of healthy foods.⁴ Unfortunately, far too many Americans do not have access to whole and healthy foods such as locally grown produce, and live in food deserts with access to only ultra-processed foods. Additionally, nearly all Americans overestimate the healthiness of their diet, indicating a severe knowledge gap around healthy eating.⁵

That's why we introduced the Food Farmacy Act, bipartisan legislation that creates a grant program to support food farmacies at eligible health care providers to improve health care outcomes. Under this legislation, non-profit health care providers would be able to support food farmacies, which provide both access to healthy foods and nutritional guidance so that individuals can make healthier choices. Additionally, this legislation is mindful that food farmacies should be operated with long-term sustainability in mind. That's why our legislation includes a provision that requires applicants to this grant to demonstrate how they would achieve financial independence from federal funding. We urge you to support this legislation, and similar food farmacy programs, to address the serious nutrition problem in this country and to support better health outcomes.

¹ <https://odphp.health.gov/foodismedicine/federal-resource-hub/dietary-guidelines-americans>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/chronic-disease/about/index.html>

³ https://odphp.health.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/Food%20Is%20Medicine%20Landscape%20Summary%20FINAL%20508%20EO%20Compliant%202%204%202025_0.pdf

⁴ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/MAHA-Report-The-White-House.pdf>

⁵ <https://nutrition.org/most-people-think-their-diet-is-healthier-than-it-is/>

As leaders of the Bipartisan Women's Caucus and Members of Congress, we are excited to work with you to expand access to nutritious foods and address chronic disease in America. Please do not hesitate to stay in contact with us as you implement programs to address nutrition, and we encourage you to support this Food Farmacy Act.

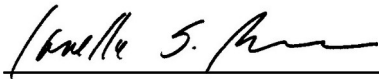
Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emilia Strong Sykes', positioned above a horizontal line.

Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monica De La Cruz', positioned above a horizontal line.

Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janelle S. Bynum', positioned above a horizontal line.

Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress