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March 19, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Perdue:

I write regarding the Department of Agriculture's (Department) recent actions on child nutrition. I look forward to working with you to ensure the health of the nation's children through faithful and robust implementation of the federal child nutrition programs. In order to better understand the Department's recent actions in this area, I request the following information and documents:

1. Please provide a detailed timeline of the Department's work to support the development of the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, including progress to date as well as when the final guidelines are expected.
2. Although the Department maintained operation of child nutrition programs during the partial government shutdown in early 2019, please provide a detailed description of any short term or long term challenges the Department is facing in child nutrition programs as a result of the partial government shutdown. Please include information on how the Department is addressing these challenges.
3. Please provide a detailed description and supporting documents of any departmental process in ensuring that school meal nutrition standards align with the latest edition of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.<sup>1</sup>
4. Please provide a detailed description of any future rulemaking or other subregulatory guidance that the Department is anticipating regarding child nutrition standards either in advance of or in response to the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
5. In response to the Summer Food Service Program's (SFSP) memoranda SFSP 06-2018 and SFSP 01-2019, several state agencies have submitted waiver requests. Please

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<sup>1</sup> 42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(4).

provide a detailed description and timeline of steps the Department is taking and will take to ensure that states and sponsors have adequate time to prepare for SFSP implementation this summer, including when the Food and Nutrition Service will respond to the states' waiver requests.

6. In 2013, USDA issued policy guidance memo SP 17-2011 indicating that foster children placed into permanent guardianship would no longer be categorically eligible for child nutrition programs, despite the fact that former foster youth face higher medical needs and continue to be eligible for other federal supports such as Medicaid. Please provide a detailed description of what steps the Department is taking to examine the impacts of this policy guidance on former foster youth.
7. Please provide a detailed explanation of the impact that the Department anticipates the realignment and relocation of the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture will have on the evaluation of child nutrition programs and the assessment of national food security levels. Please include any analyses or other supporting documents that are responsive to this request.

Please provide the requested information and documents by April 2, 2019. I also request that the Department provide a briefing on its responses to the Committee staff by April 9, 2019.

Please contact Alison Hard with the Committee at 202-225-3725 or [Alison.Hard@mail.house.gov](mailto:Alison.Hard@mail.house.gov) with any questions. Please direct all official correspondence regarding this request to the Committee's Chief Clerk at [Tylease.Alli@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tylease.Alli@mail.house.gov). Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



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**ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**  
Chairman