November 16, 2021

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady:

The undersigned organizations write to express our support for consideration of H.R. 5370, the Medically Tailored Home-Delivered Meals Demonstration Pilot Act of 2021, before the House Ways and Means Committee. By expanding access to medically tailored meals (MTMs) for Americans living with severe illness who are too sick to shop or cook for themselves, we can improve health outcomes, lower the cost of care for at-risk individuals, and provide Medicare enrollees with meals that are tailored to their medical needs.

Approximately 80% of older adults have at least one chronic disease, and almost 70% of Medicare beneficiaries have two or more. However, most Medicare beneficiaries currently have no access to medically tailored meal services. MTMs serve as a tool to increase patient satisfaction and reduce food insecurity for individuals who are at high risk of hospital admission or skilled nursing facility admission. Through the creation of a Medicare pilot, H.R. 5370 would provide MTMs to Medicare enrollees who are referred by a medical professional or health care plan. To ensure the best possible outcomes for enrollees - many of whom experience limitations on activities of daily living – meal plans for MTMs are designed by Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs). As advocates for addressing social determinants of health, eradicating malnutrition and hunger, and bending the health care cost curve, we know this investment in MTMs stands to benefit Medicare enrollees struggling with severe and chronic disease(s) and food insecurity.

Thanks to successful and effective programs in states around the country that are already combatting poor health outcomes, we know that MTMs meet a critical need that is not currently addressed by our health care system or the current food safety net. Studies have shown that MTMs lead to: (1) reductions in emergency department visits of dually eligible individuals by 70%; (2) reductions in inpatient hospital admissions by 52%; (3) reductions in admission to skilled nursing facilities by 72%; and (4) 16% net decreases in health care costs.

To continue to expand access to this cost-saving benefit for the nation’s seniors, we urge you to expand access to MTMs by giving H.R. 5370, the Medically Tailored Home-Delivered
Meals Demonstration Pilot Act of 2021, consideration before the House Ways and Means Committee.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Alissa Wassung, Chair of the FIMC Policy Committee, at policy@fimcoalition.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Food Is Medicine Coalition and the organizations undersigned

About Fresh, Inc. - Boston, MA
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics - Washington, DC
ACMA - Arlington, VA
AIDS Alabama - Birmingham, AL
AIDS Foundation Chicago - Chicago, IL
AIDS Services Foundation Orange County dba Radiant Health Centers - Irvine, CA
Alameda County Community Food Bank - Oakland, CA
American College of Lifestyle Medicine - Flower Mound, TX
AMOR Healing Kitchen - Charleston, SC
APLA Health - Los Angeles, CA
APNH: A Place to Nourish your Health - New Haven, CT
Area Agency on Aging of NW MI - Traverse City, MI
Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging - Cleveland, OH
CAEARR Coalition - Washington, DC
California Medical Association - Sacramento, CA
Caracole, Inc. - Cincinnati, OH
CareQuest Institute for Oral Health - Boston, MA
Center for Food As Medicine - New York, NY
Center for Science in the Public Interest - Washington, DC
Ceres Community Project - Sebastopol, CA
Community Bridges - Watsonville, CA
Community Servings - Boston, MA
Covid Clinic, Inc. - Long Beach, CA
CrescentCare - New Orleans, LA
Defeat Malnutrition Today - Washington, DC
FISH - Ellensburg, WA
Food & Friends - Washington, DC
Food For Thought - Forestville, CA
Food Gatherers - Ann Arbor, MI
Food Outreach - Saint Louis, MO
Food Research & Action Center - Washington, DC
Foodicine Health, Inc. - Newton, MA
Fresh Approach - Concord, CA
Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission - Fresno, CA
Friedman School of Nutrition Science & Policy, Tufts University - Boston, MA
Georgia AIDS Coalition - Snellville, GA
God's Love We Deliver - New York, NY, NY
Greater Chicago Food Depository - Chicago, IL
Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. - Madison, WI
GreenFare Health and Wellness - Oak Hill, VA
Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities - Traverse City, MI
Grow Benzie - Benzonia, MI
Growing Gardens - Portland, OR
Health Care Without Harm - Reston, VA
HealthPartners - Bloomington, MN
HIV Dental Alliance - Atlanta, GA
Homebound Meals, Inc - Fort Wayne, IN
Hope In The End - Charlotte, NC
Housing Works, Inc. - New York, NY
Houston Food Bank - Houston, TX
Hunter College NYC Food Policy Center - New York City, NY
Impacto LGBT - Alexandria, VA
Indy Hunger Network - Indianapolis, IN
Integrative Medicine Foundation - Cincinnati, OH
Kirby Medical Center - Monticello, IL
Kitchen Angels - Santa Fe, NM
la soupe - Cincinnati, OH
Legacy Health - Portland, OR
Lexington County Recreation & Aging Commission - Lexington, SC
Lifelong - Seattle, WA
Mama's Kitchen - San Diego, CA
Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society - Edgartown, MA
Massachusetts Medical Society - Waltham, MA
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger - Washington, DC
Meals on Wheels America - Arlington, VA
Meals on Wheels California - Anaheim, CA
Meals on Wheels Diablo Region – Walnut Creek, CA
Meals on Wheels North Central Texas Inc - Cleburne, TX
Meals on Wheels of Hillsborough County - Merrimack, NH
Meals on Wheels of Long Beach, Inc. – Long Beach, CA
Meals on Wheels of Northwest Indiana - Merrillville, IN
Meals on Wheels of Solano County - Suisun City, CA
Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula - Pacific Grove, CA
Meals on Wheels Orange County - Anaheim, CA
Meals on Wheels People - Portland, OR
Meals on Wheels San Francisco - San Francisco, CA
Meals on Wheels South Florida - Plantation, FL
Meals on Wheels Wake County - Raleigh, NC
Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance (MANNA) - Philadelphia, PA
Mill City Grows - Lowell, MA
Minaret Foundation - Houston, TX
Minnesota Masonic Home - Bloomington, TX
Minuteman Senior Services - Bedford, MA
Monroe County Meals On Wheels, Inc. - Stroudsburg, PA
Moveable Feast - Baltimore, MD
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs - Washington, DC
National Kidney Foundation - New York, NY
New Hampshire Food Bank - Manchester, NH
New York State Association of Aging Services and Nutrition Professionals - Goshen, NY
Newberry County Council on Aging - Newberry, SC
NH Hunger Solutions - Concord, NH
NMAC - Washington, DC
North Coast Opportunities - Ukiah, CA
Open Arms of Minnesota - Minneapolis, MN
Open Hand Atlanta - Atlanta, GA
Operation Food Search - St. Louis, Missouri
Orange County Office for the Aging - Goshen, NY
Partners in Healthy Communities - New London, CT
Partners in Nutrition Indiana - Indianapolis, IN
Pennsylvania Public Health Association - Philadelphia, PA
Portage Health Foundation - Hancock, MI
Positive Community Kitchen - Eugene, OR
Project Angel Food - Hollywood, CA
Project Angel Heart - Denver, CO
Project Hospitality - Staten Island, NY
Project Open Hand - Oakland & San Francisco, CA
ProMedica - Toledo, OH
Reinvestment Partners - Durham, NC
Revive and Thrive Project - Grand Rapids, MI
Rhode Island Community Food Bank - Providence, RI
Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels Program - Brentwood, NH
Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida - Orlando, FL
Second Harvest Heartland - Brooklyn Park, MN
Senior Life Resources/Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels - Richland, WA
Service Opportunity for Seniors / SOS Meals on Wheels - San Leandro, CA
SHARE Fund/Gerrys Food Pantry - Rochester, NH
Sugar River Senior Center - Belleville, WI
Sustainable CAPE - Truro, MA
Teen Kitchen Project - Soquel, CA
Texas Health Resources - Arlington, TX
The Health Trust - San Jose, CA
The Joy Bus - Phoenix, AZ
The Open Door - Gloucester, MA
The Poverello Center, Inc. - Wilton Manors, FL
The Root Cause Coalition - Washington, DC
The Teaching Kitchen Collaborative - Boston, MA & Oakland, CA
Treatment Action Group - New York, NY
Tufts University - Boston, MA
Tulsa Cares - Tulsa, OK
University at Buffalo - Buffalo, NY
Vision Urbana Inc - New York, NY
Vivalon - San Rafael, CA
WANDA: Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture - Washington, DC
Washtenaw County Food Policy Council - Ann Arbor, MI
Wholesome Wave - Washington, DC
Wisconsin Advocacy Aging Network - Chippewa Falls, WI
Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels - Ypsilanti, MI