

June 16, 2020

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

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

Dear Secretaries Perdue and Azar:

We, the undersigned PhD's, doctors, and other healthcare practitioners, would like to express our concerns about recent allegations concerning the process for the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) made by one or more members of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) and outlined in a recent letter published by the Nutrition Coalition.

This/these DGAC members describe significant flaws in the process that determines our federal nutrition policy. We know, for instance, that almost all studies on weight loss have been excluded from consideration. We also know that virtually all studies on carbohydrate restriction have been excluded. Some reviews of the science only include the science up to 2016, despite a Congressional mandate that the Dietary Guidelines include a comprehensive review of the science “that is current at the time.” The member(s) of the DGAC also allege that the committee has not been given enough time to do its work and has, essentially, had to cut corners.

As you know, the Dietary Guidelines is a critically important policy that impacts virtually every American, determining basic nutritional advice and federal feeding programs for millions.

In light of the severity of these concerns, we are requesting that the allegations be investigated to ensure that the next iteration of the DGA be based on a comprehensive, rigorous and reliable review of the science so that this policy can be in the best interest of all Americans. We also echo calls by others to delay submission of the DGAC expert report to the federal agencies overseeing the Guidelines, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services (USDA-HHS), in order to provide adequate time for an investigation and remediation of the problems identified.

Nutrition is among the most important factors determining individual health, yet there is little transparency around the process and the science that underpins the government’s vastly influential nutrition policy. As doctors, we know how much our professional associations rely on these guidelines to provide information to help our patients become healthier. If this information is not based on the most current or most rigorous science—or indeed, excludes large bodies of science, as seems to be the case—then all healthcare practitioners will be unable to use these Guidelines as a trustworthy source of information for our patients.

With this in mind, we would also like to acknowledge the crucial role that nutrition policy has

had in shaping our nation's metabolic health. The guidelines were first issued 40 years ago, yet since that time, America has seen skyrocketing rates of chronic, nutrition-related diseases. Rates of obesity and diabetes have reached record highs, with the Guidelines unable to address these epidemics.

Given these concerns, it is clear that the allegations by one or more DGAC member(s) should be taken seriously to ensure that the Guidelines are trustworthy and based on the most current, rigorous science to ensure better health in America.

We urge government officials who oversee this policy to take these allegations seriously and ensure that the Guidelines are grounded in a rigorous scientific methodology that includes all relevant evidence on nutrition and chronic illness. It is not acceptable for the 2020 DGAC to ignore all studies on weight loss and all studies on low-carbohydrate diets. It is also not acceptable for scientific reviews to end in 2016 when it is now 2020. Most importantly, we think it imperative to publish a Dietary Guidelines that addresses the needs of all Americans, including those with diet-related metabolic diseases. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Alan Vanderwalde, MD, MBA  
Alexander Leyte-Vidal, DDS  
Alicia Reasoner, DO  
Amir Weiss, MD  
Amor Santiago, DPM, MPH, CMT  
Amy Berger, MS  
Amy Hearne, MD  
Ana Childers, MD, FAPA  
Anant Vinjamoori, MD  
Andrea Pollema, MD  
Andrew Oswari, MD  
Andy Phung, DO  
Angela A. Stanton, PhD  
Angela Latta, NP-C  
Anne Murphy, RN  
Anne Perez, MA  
Anthony Auriemma, MD, JD  
April Gunn, DO  
Audra Cook, PhD  
Bettina Paek, MD  
Biljana Simikic, DO  
Brent Creighton, PhD

Brian Lenzkes, MD  
Brittanie Volk, PhD, RD  
Brittany Ashenfelter, DrPH, ABD, MS,  
BS, AAS, CDA  
Candice Tung, MD  
Carl Knopke, MD  
Carl Knpoke, MD, AAFP, FOMA  
Carlos E. Moreyra, MD  
Carol N. Rowsemitt, PhD, RN, FNP  
Caroline Roberts, MD  
Carrie Sloan, RN  
Caryn Zinn, PhD  
Catherine Eileen Shanahan, MD  
Catherine Metzgar Lo, PhD, RD  
Catherine Saena, PhD, RD  
Catriona Walsh, MB Bch, BAO, MA  
Celia Egan, MD  
Charles Cavo, DO  
Chris A. Knobbe, MD  
Christa Bowdler, RN, BSN  
Christine Najjar, MD  
Christina Nguyen, MD

Christina van Hilst, DNP  
Christine Smith, PhD  
Christopher Palmer, MD  
Christopher Schoeb, MBBS, FSEM,  
MRCGP, DRCOG, MSc SEM, ACA,  
MEng  
Christy Kesslering, MD  
Daniel Flaming, MD  
Darren Schmidt, DC  
David Brooke Miller, MD  
David C. Pendergrass, PhD  
David Harrison, MD  
David S. Weed, PsyD  
David Scupham, PhD  
Debbie Nighswonger, ARNP, FNP-  
Certified  
Deborah Gordon, MD  
Dena O'Leary, MD, MSCTS  
Denise Kennedy, BSN  
Derek Marks, PhD  
Diane M. Williams, MD  
Dina Griauzde, MD  
Donald R. David, PhD  
Dwight Lundell, MD  
Earl Schott, MD  
Eashwarran Kohilathas, MD  
Elie Jarrouge, MD  
Ellen Belesky, MBA  
Emery Cole, DMD, FAGD  
Emily Norbryhn, RD  
Eric M. Thorn, MD  
Eric Sodicoff, MD  
Eric Westman, MD, MHS  
Erin Gray, ADN  
Eugene J. Casale, PhD  
Eyal Asor, MD, PhD  
Frank D. Dumont, MD, FACP  
Gary Fettke, MB, BS, FRACS, FA  
Gemma Hollowell, MSC  
Georgia Ede, MD  
Georgina Bustamante, MD

Georgina Pujol-Busquets, PhD Student  
Gregory L. Kelso, MD  
Gregory Yurek, PhD  
Ian C. Booth, MBBCh  
Indrani B. Raman, MD  
Jack Cady, MPT  
Jake Kushner, MD  
James Bailes Jr, MD  
James Bailes Jr., MD  
James Philip McCarter, MD, PhD  
Jami Maxson, MD  
Jamie Glen House, MD  
Janae Cywes, MS  
Janelle Lindow, DO  
Jasmine Moghissi, MD  
Jason Murdock, MD  
Jay Wrigley, MD  
Jeff Stanley, MD  
Jeff Volek, PhD, RD  
Jeffrey Harper, PhD  
Jeffrey Gerber, MD  
Jennifer Greer, MD  
Jennifer McCabe Lentz, MD  
Jeremiah Eisenschenk, MD  
Jessiva Inwood, MD  
Jill Knopoff, MS  
Joan Donaldson, RN  
Joe Rigdon, PhD  
John Burd, PhD  
John Cripps, MD, FRCSC  
John D. Stephens, MD  
John Hill, MBCHB  
John Stephens, MD  
John Wohlwend, MD  
Jonathan Bonnet, MD, MPH  
Jonathan Miller, DC  
Joseph A. Lovely, PharmD  
Juan Carlos Torres Urrutia, MD  
Julio C. Mandojana, PhD  
Justin Tondt, MD

Karen Oaks, FNP  
Kari Rossow, PA-C  
Kate Rheaume, Doctor of Nursing  
Katharine Morrison, MB, ChB, MRCCGP  
Katie Thompson, DC  
Keith Wright, MD  
Kelly Johnson, PhD  
Ken D. Berry, MD  
Ken Dannett, PhD  
Kenneth Brookler, MD, MS  
Kenneth Peters, MD  
Kenneth Power, MD  
Kirsten Schwartz, PhD  
Kissi Blackwell, MD  
Kristin Baier, MD  
Lauren Curnutt, PharmD, BS  
Leroy Evan Custer, MD  
Lisa McGonigal, MD, MPH  
Lori Shemek, PhD  
Ma. Niña Milagros Oliveros Eala, MD  
Manolis Meramveliotakis, MD  
Mappy Delgado, MD  
Mariela Glandt, MD  
Mark Cucuzzella, MD  
Mark Holtschlag, DC  
Mark Nelson, MD  
Mary Braud, MD  
Mary Dan Eades, MD  
Meg Ramstad, APRN-C  
Meghann Blankenship, MD  
Melissa Hague, MD  
Michael Fox, MD  
Michael R. Eades, MD  
Michael Taylor, MBBS, FRACGP,  
FACRRM, FACEM  
Michelle Enmark, DDS  
Mihaela Telecan, DVM, MS, RD  
Munazza Anis, MD  
Nancy A Noyce, MD, MPH  
Nancy Orchard, MD

Nancy Palmer, MD  
Naomi Johnson, MPH  
Naomi Parrella, MD, FAAFP, Dipl.  
ABOM  
Neil Billeaud, MD  
Neil J. McCarthy, PhD  
Nicholas Pennings, DO  
Nicole Recine, RN, MSN, AGPCNP-BC  
Normal Robillard, PhD  
Parvez Dara, MD  
Patricia A. Champion, Ed.D.  
Patrick Ticman, MD  
Paul Alan Mabry, MD  
Peggy Holloway, PhD  
Pentti Raaste, MD  
Peter Curka, DO  
Peter J. Ballerstedt, PhD  
Peter J. Jansen, MD  
Peter J. Jensen, MD  
Philip Kim, RN  
Philip Ovidia, MD  
Philippe Hujoel, PhD  
Radley Griffin, MD  
Rajashri Patil, MD  
Ramon Issa, MD  
Randy Morris, DNP, RN, CPAP, CAPA,  
BCPA  
Richard A. Jewell, PhD  
Richard Amerling, MD  
Richard Feinman, PhD  
Richard Mathias, MD, FRCPC  
Richard Urso, MD  
Rita Nawar, MD  
Robb Fulton, DO  
Robert A. DeSimone, MD  
Robert Cywes, MD, PhD  
Robert Hasselbrack, MD, MS  
Robert M. Hanse, MD  
Robert Schulman, MD  
Robert Wallach, DO  
Robert. E. Ratnert, MD

Ron Giles, DC  
Ronald Primas, MD  
Ronesh Sinha, MD  
Rosa G. Martinez, PA-C  
Ross Zimmerman, PhD  
Ryan McCallum, MD, CCFP, Dip  
ABOM  
Sabrina Markese, MD  
Sarah Hallberg, DO  
Sarah Smith, MD  
Scott Higgins, PhD  
Sean Bourke, MD  
Seneca Carrillo, MD  
Shaminie Athinarayanan, PhD  
Shawn Baker, MD  
Sheryl Leventhal, MD  
Shree R. Mulay, MD  
Stefanus Snyman, MB, ChB, MPhil,  
DOM  
Stephen C. Riggs, MD  
Stephen Park, MD

Susan Flagel, DO  
Susan Morton-Pradhan, MD  
Susan Reinwald, PhD  
Susan Wolver, MD  
Suzanne Gokavi, MSW  
Thea Vanags, PhD  
Tim Logemann, MD  
Timothy Lawton, MD, FAAFP, MS  
Timothy M. O'Dowd, MB, BCh, BAO,  
FRCOG FRANZCOG  
Tom McGinn, MD  
Tony Hampton, MD  
Traci Regner, FNTF  
Travis Einertson, DVM  
Tro Kalayjian, DO  
Uma Pisharody, MD  
Vann E. Schaffner, MD  
Wendy Pogozeleski, PhD  
Wesley Eichorn, DO  
William V. Ronan, DO, MBA, FAAP