

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
US House of Representatives
568 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
US Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
US House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
US Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

January 14, 2026

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader Schumer:

The undersigned organizations strongly urge swift consideration of H.R. 5439 and S. 2834, the *Medically Tailored Home-Delivered Meals Program Pilot Act*, for inclusion in any legislative package to improve healthcare and our economy. By expanding access to medically tailored meals (MTMs) for Americans living with severe, complex, and chronic conditions, and scaling MTM pilot programs in rural, urban and frontier communities across the country, this bill aims to improve health outcomes, lower healthcare costs and, through rigorous evaluation, understand the impact of this intervention on health outcomes and cost. This bipartisan and bicameral policy change will improve the health of older Americans and people living with disabilities across the nation by providing a proven nutrition intervention in a clinically appropriate, geographically diverse landscape.

[The Medically Tailored Meal \(MTM\) intervention](#) is the comprehensive process of delivering meals to individuals living with severe, complex or chronic condition(s) using therapeutic, evidence-based dietary specifications for conditions, based on an assessment of the individual's nutrition needs by a registered dietitian nutritionist or other nutrition professional. [More than 90% of adults 65 and older have at least one chronic condition, while 79% have two or more.](#) A growing body of [evidence](#) demonstrates that the MTM intervention works. In fact, a [recent cost-modelling study](#) estimated that if all eligible patients received the intervention, the country would save \$23.7 billion in net healthcare costs during the first year alone and avert 2.6 million hospitalizations. **Despite this evidence of impact and clear need, there is currently no access to this lifesaving service in traditional Medicare.**

This legislation begins to address the issue by directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a six-year pilot program to provide the MTM intervention to some of our nation's most vulnerable Medicare enrollees. Recently hospitalized Medicare enrollees with conditions such as congestive heart failure, diabetes, COPD, and kidney disease would receive up to two MTMs per day—and medical nutrition therapy—for at least twelve weeks and their health outcomes would be closely monitored. The pilot program would operate in at least 40 hospitals in various geographic locations around the country, ensuring that patients in rural communities, cities, and suburban neighborhoods can experience the benefits of nutritious MTMs. This geographic diversity would help researchers identify how we can integrate medically tailored meals into the healthcare system to improve cost-efficacy and health outcomes for high-risk Medicare beneficiaries and produce data that will help America build a resilient, cost-effective health care system.

In many communities across the nation, MTM organizations that prepare and distribute meals have partnered with insurers, state governments, and foundations to increase access to these critical services. The many [successful partnerships are already lowering health care costs](#) and improving outcomes for individuals living with severe, complex and chronic diseases, progress that would only be accelerated by the implementation of this MTM pilot program. In the 118th Congress, the MTM Bill was introduced in both chambers as a bipartisan bill and then included in H.R. 8816, The American Medical Innovation and Investment Act, which was unanimously passed out of the House Committee on Ways and Means as a bipartisan, cost-neutral bill.

We thank you and the bill sponsors—Representatives James P. McGovern, Nicole Malliotakis, Chellie Pingree, Dwight Evans and Brian Fitzpatrick and Senators Cory Booker, Roger Marshall, Bill Cassidy and Tina Smith— for your dedication to improving health outcomes for patients across America. This legislation would successfully build on the progress already being made to increase access to preventative healthcare services, reduce chronic disease, and reduce costs to the healthcare system. We urge Congress to quickly pass the Medically Tailored Home-Delivered Meals Program Pilot Act. Our organizations stand ready to assist and support this critical mission. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out at info@fimcoalition.org.

Sincerely,

Alameda County Community Food Bank
Alliance Care 360
Alliance for a Healthy Kansas
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American College of Lifestyle Medicine
American Heart Association
American Society for Nutrition
Americas Best Farm
Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance
Asawana Farms
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging
California Food is Medicine Coalition
Capital City Fruit
Caribbean Produce Exchange LLC
Ceres Community Project
Chef2Home
ChristianaCare
Cocina Rx
Common Threads
Community Servings
Dare to Care Food Bank, Inc.
Dartmouth Health
DC Greens
Defeat Malnutrition Today
DoorDash
Equiti Foods/Good Bowls
Faith C.D.C
FamilyCare Health Centers
Farm to HealthCare Co.

Feeding Tampa Bay
Feeding Texas
Food & Friends, Inc.
Food For Health
Food For Thought
Food is Medicine Institute at Tufts University
Food Is Medicine Coalition
Food Outreach
Foundation for Health Equity
Fresh & Fabulous, Inc.
Fresh Baby
FreshFlavorRx
FreshRx Oklahoma
Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
GA Foods
God's Love We Deliver
Greater Chicago Food Depository
GreenFare
Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities
Hackensack Meridian Health
HealthBegins
HealthPort
Healthy Children Healthy Futures
Houston Food Bank
Hunger Free Kansas
Inclusive Alliance IPA, Inc.
Instacart
Island Harvest Food Bank
JFS Washtenaw County
Kanbe's Markets
Kellyn Foundation
Lanakila Pacific
Lifelong Health For All
LifeSpring Home Nutrition
Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchen
Mama's Kitchen
Meals on Wheels America
Meals on Wheels Central Texas
Meals on Wheels Greenville
Meals on Wheels of Central Indiana
Meals on Wheels of Chesapeake Inc
Meals on Wheels of Hillsborough County
Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula
Meals on Wheels People
Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance (MANNA)
ModifyHealth
Moveable Feast
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Kidney Foundation
National Produce Prescription Collaborative
New York State Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics

NourishPHX
Nutrient Density Alliance
NYS Food as Medicine Coalition
Ohio Association of Foodbanks
Open Arms of MN
Open Hand Atlanta
PLANTSTRONG
Project Angel Food
Project Angel Heart
Project Open Hand
Reinvestment Partners
Roadrunner Food Bank of New Mexico
Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, Inc.
Senior Resources
Share Our Strength
Sifter Solutions
Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans
SunTerra Health, Inc. | Project FoodBox
Teen Kitchen Project
Texas Consortium for the Non-Medical Drivers of Health
The Food Coach Academy
The Food Mill
The Joy Bus
The Marion Institute, Inc.
The Poverello Center Inc.
UGK Community First
Upstream Strategies
West Virginia Food is Medicine Coalition
Western New York Integrated Care Collaborative, Inc.
Wholesome Wave
Wholesome Wave Georgia
Wholespire, Inc.
Yellowbird Foodshed LLC