

June 6, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins Secretary of Agriculture U.S. Department of Agriculture 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Rollins and Secretary Kennedy:

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) and our 50,000 members share the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission's commitment to improving children's success through healthful meals, prepared with nutritious, American-grown foods. We request the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss how school meal programs can be powerful partners in achieving the Commission's objectives.

School meal programs serve 30 million students daily, representing one of the nation's largest public health nutrition interventions. We believe these programs significantly advance the Commission's goals and would welcome the opportunity to demonstrate how they are already making progress and can do even more.

While we see strong alignment between school nutrition efforts and MAHA priorities, recent proposed cuts to nutrition programs represent a contradiction. SNA <u>surveys</u> reveal school meal programs are burdened by high costs and insufficient federal reimbursement rates, yet these are the very programs that can deliver on MAHA objectives with proper investment.

We would be honored to invite you to speak to our members at SNA's Annual National Conference (ANC), July 13 - 15 in San Antonio, TX. ANC would provide you the opportunity to engage directly with thousands of school nutrition professionals from across the nation who are implementing the very programs that align with MAHA priorities.

We are also available for meetings at your convenience in Washington, D.C. We want to make this as accessible as possible and are flexible on timing and location.

We urge the Commission to recognize school meal programs as essential partners in building healthier communities and to include robust investments in these programs in upcoming policies. We stand ready to partner with you in this important work and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Shannon Gleave, RDN, SNS President

Mutare

Patricia Montague, CAE Chief Executive Officer