

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia M. Burwell
Secretary of Health & Human Services
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

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

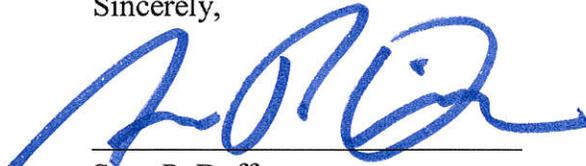
Dear Secretary Burwell and Secretary Vilsack:

We are writing to comment on the recently published Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Report. Specifically, we want to bring to your attention the report's relegation of lean meats in its description of the recommended dietary guidelines for Americans. We are hopeful that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will take into consideration the full impact of diminishing the role of lean meats.

The 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Report significantly downplays, to the point of making it merely a footnote, the role of lean meats and processed meats in its recommendations for a healthy and balanced diet. The consumption of processed meats encompasses a diversity of products and preparation styles from beef to poultry to organic, kosher, and halal. Lean meats are a healthy source of iron and are nutrient dense. Lean meats have played a consistent role as a staple of the American diet, and should continue to do so.

As the Dietary Guidelines for Americans are issued and updated every five years, you must consider the necessity of reaching a comprehensive and thoroughly researched report that accurately reflects a complete understanding of American dietary needs. The importance of reaching a broadly researched and holistic conclusion regarding the new dietary guidelines is of the utmost importance as many Americans look to official dietary guidelines when considering healthy food choices.

Sincerely,



Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress



Reid Ribble
Member of Congress