



June 9, 2026

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate

Dear Senators Murray and Klobuchar,

Thank you and your colleagues for your May 18, 2026 letter regarding the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) intention to reorganize and restructure the Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) mission area into the new Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA). We share your commitment to ensuring effective administration of the 16 federal nutrition programs on behalf of the one in four Americans that rely on them nationwide.

While Secretary Rollins and Deputy Secretary Vaden maintain that the FNA reorganization and accompanying forced relocations will not interrupt administration of the country's nutrition programs, an internal survey of FNA employees conducted by National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) Chapter 226 indicates the opposite. Our survey, representing over a third of the FNA workforce across all offices, regions, and management layers, found that 81% of respondents will not relocate and will be forced out of their job. These results are consistent across all major nutrition programs: 81% of SNAP employees, 78% of Child Nutrition program employees, and 90% of Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) employees will be forced out of their jobs due to involuntary relocations.

These findings are consistent with the Government Accountability Office's findings that USDA's 2019 relocation of the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture resulted in the loss of over half of those agencies' staff and a significant reduction in productivity. Our survey data confirms this reorganization is on a similar trajectory of severe, and predictable, consequences.

USDA and FNA leadership have never consulted employees about this reorganization plan, which received overwhelmingly negative public comments, and our survey results show they are seriously misrepresenting their workforce's ability to relocate.

These programs simply cannot function without the dedicated civil servants who administer them everyday. As you mention in your own letter, FNA has already lost 30% of employees since January 2025, largely due to the Deferred Resignation Program. Further mass employee departures will eliminate institutional knowledge of civil servants with over a decade of federal service on average. In responses to our survey, FNA employees shared hundreds of examples of how program participants and State and local level offices will bear the consequences of the proposed reorganization. Without experienced staff, the Agency will not be able to calculate reliable SNAP payment error rates putting hundreds of millions of dollars in State funds at risk for FY2028. WIC State agencies will face increased delays of congressionally appropriated funds. State agencies will be left without experts to support and authorize Disaster SNAP. A reduction in staff is particularly alarming given the need to make major updates to nutrition standards for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, work that demands experienced staff, not a workforce in the middle of a forced relocation. Across all programs, FNA's capacity to offer technical assistance for legislative changes, update regulations, distribute mandatory



and discretionary grants, and conduct adequate oversight will be seriously constrained, leaving States, local agencies, and program participants without the federal support they are legally owed.

NTEU Chapter 226 remains committed to bargaining with USDA in good faith and protecting the public servants who, regardless of politics, ensure that Americans don't go hungry.

We appreciate your support in protecting the effective and efficient administration of Federal nutrition programs. We recognize that USDA has not provided responses to the questions members submitted with your letter, including for a cost-benefit analysis of the relocation, timeline, retention forecast, and detailed description of how USDA plans to maintain continuity of services. If you or a member of your staff is available for a meeting, we are eager to discuss how these changes would impact your State and your constituents directly. We can be reached for details or comment at [nteuchapter226@gmail.com](mailto:nteuchapter226@gmail.com).

Sincerely,  
NTEU Chapter 226 Leadership