



June 2, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Collins and Vice Chair Murray:

NTEU is proud to represent the federal employees who work at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food & Nutrition Administration (FNA), formerly known as the Food & Nutrition Service, which administers vital programs like SNAP, WIC, and school meals. On behalf of our members, we write to express our concern regarding the April 30 announcement by USDA of its intent to close five of the seven FNA regional offices and relocate staff based on programmatic work. As explained below, these changes will jeopardize the efficient delivery of nutrition benefits to Americans.

The reorganization under consideration, including the restructuring of FNA, would uproot thousands of federal employees not only in the Washington, D.C., area, but across the country. This disruption threatens to undermine the integrity of critical public services like nutrition assistance, food safety, and disaster response. Past agency relocations have led to the resignation of more than half of the affected workforce, resulting in a significant loss of institutional knowledge and reduced oversight.

NTEU Chapter 226, representing FNA employees in the National Office, surveyed FNA employees across the U.S. and found that more than 80% of survey participants would likely be forced out of their jobs instead of relocating. This is an extreme risk, especially given that FNA has already lost over a third of its workforce since January 2025. Such outcomes would severely compromise the USDA's ability to serve the American public effectively and efficiently, jeopardizing the delivery of SNAP benefits, WIC assistance, and school lunches and breakfasts.

Additionally, FNA Regional Offices monitor States' implementation of the agency's federal nutrition assistance. Each office monitors and provides guidance to 7 or 8 States. Regional Offices have lost an estimated 40% of staff through the Deferred Resignation Program, and oversight of States has decreased as a result. Reducing from 7 to 5 regions will further limit FNA staff's ability to conduct cost-effective visits to States to ensure program compliance.

Despite claims from USDA leadership that the reorganization will not disrupt programs, without staff, FNA will not be able to produce reliable SNAP quality control error rates, risking

both federal oversight and potentially billions in State funds. Grants and funding allocations will be halted, including crucial disaster assistance. Work on the dietary guidelines and updates to school meals will be compromised. Programs will be left more vulnerable to abuse or fraud than ever, with fewer experts to fight benefit theft, conduct investigations, modernize programs, and provide technical assistance.

For these reasons, we are calling on you and your colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee to require USDA leadership to adhere to restrictions in current appropriations law prohibiting relocation without Congressional approval and pass further restrictions to prevent USDA from gutting staff and programs. Should Congress permit USDA to proceed with its reorganization plan, we urge you to require USDA to provide detailed briefings and written disclosures on staffing losses, affected offices, program risks, relocation costs, and impacts on SNAP, WIC, and child nutrition operations.

Protecting the integrity of USDA programs and the dedicated federal workforce that administers them is critical to safeguarding services that millions of Americans rely on every day.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Doreen P. Greenwald, NTEU National President

Amy Rosenthal, Chapter Leader, NTEU Chapter 226 (FNA Headquarters)

Randy Garrett, Chapter Leader, NTEU Chapter 237 (FNA Midwest Region)

Michael Orcutt, Chapter Leader, NTEU Chapter 240 (FNA Mountain Plains Region)

Ellen Mei, Chapter Leader, NTEU Chapter 255 (FNA Northeast Region)

Ernestine Milo, Chapter Leader, NTEU Chapter 265 (FNA Southwest Region)

Dorinda George Lyght, Chapter Leader, NTEU Chapter 268 (FNA Southeast Region)