



October 25, 2021

The Honorable Jim McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives
370 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jackie Walorski
U.S. House of Representatives
466 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives McGovern and Walorski:

AARP, on behalf of our nearly 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, is pleased to endorse the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, Hunger, and Health Act. We appreciate your bipartisan leadership in introducing this legislation in an effort to end hunger in America.

Over 9 million older adults across the country struggle to put food on the table. Older adults may face life challenges as they age—such as experiencing a medical crisis, job loss, or the death of a spouse or other loved one—that may result in financial instability and make it difficult to afford food. Rising food prices can mean the difference between putting a meal on the table and going without for low-income seniors living on a fixed income. When financially strained, older adults are often forced to choose between paying for food and paying for other necessities like rent, transportation, and medical bills.

In times of need, many older adults turn to a variety of support networks to access food, including programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Programs, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). However, millions of older adults who are eligible for federal support through SNAP still do not enroll or face challenges staying enrolled for reasons like stigma, social isolation, or a burdensome application process. Food and nutrition security is a complex issue, requiring a comprehensive approach that thoughtfully engages a number of sectors beyond traditional nutrition assistance programs. Thus, we applaud this effort to hold a substantive, policy-based, and action-oriented White House hunger conference to end hunger and improve nutrition.

AARP stands ready to work with you to address the pressing food needs of older Americans across the country. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Nicole Burda on our Government Affairs staff at nburda@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Bill Sweeney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'B' and 'S'.

Bill Sweeney
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs