

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2017

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We write in strong opposition to President Trump's FY 2018 budget request, which eliminates funding for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-funded Jean Mayer Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging (HNRCA) at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts.

The FY 2018 budget request proposes significant wrongheaded cuts to USDA research programs, and in particular, proposes to eliminate the HNRCA. The HNRCA is one of 16 national laboratories, locations, and worksites targeted for closure. Food and nutrition play a central role in U.S. health, environment, and economic development. Diet-related disease has become America's largest single cause of premature death and disability. More research is needed to address the nutritional needs of all Americans, with specific attention given to the elderly, the fastest growing segment of the nation's population. The proposed budget would have the opposite effect, and will exacerbate the health problems of our nation's most vulnerable by cutting funding for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) by 22 percent and the Human Nutrition program by 50 percent below the FY 2017 omnibus levels.

Tufts' HNRCA – a national resource for over 35 years – plays a unique and vital role in bridging the challenges and costs of food production and dissemination to address current rates of obesity, metabolic and neurological disorders, and cancer for older Americans. HNRCA research has made significant contributions to the U.S. and international nutritional and physical activity recommendations, public policy, and clinical healthcare. Current research at HNRCA is investigating the role that nutrition plays in cancer, heart disease, infectious disease, and Alzheimer's, and will continue to improve healthcare, save lives, and generate economic growth for the nation.

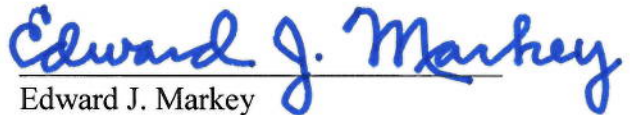
The importance of the HNRCA has been appreciated by every single Presidential Administration since the Center's inception in 1979 as evidenced by robust, sustained funding levels each fiscal year. It is critical that this funding remain intact to support the HNRCA's cutting-edge research, which continues to improve the health and economy of the United States.

Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss the HNRCA at any time, please do not hesitate to contact any of our offices.

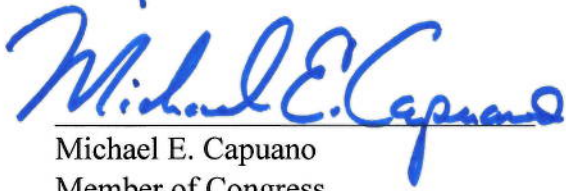
Sincerely,



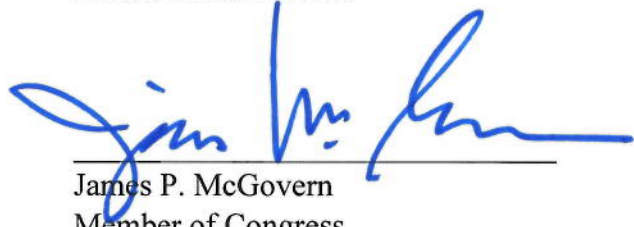
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



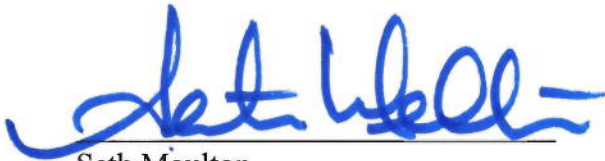
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress




James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



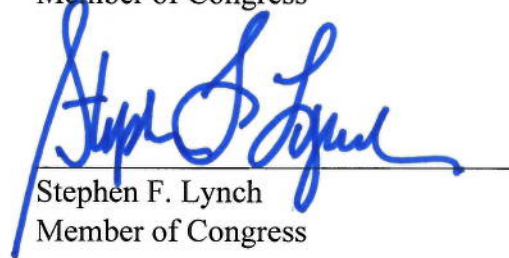
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress



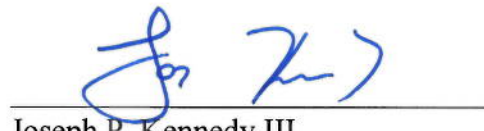
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



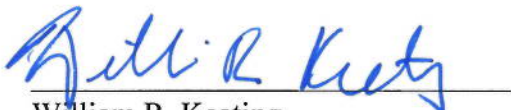
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark
Member of Congress



Joseph P. Kennedy III
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress