March 26, 2024

Chair, Senator Debbie Stabenow
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member, Senator John Boozman
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chair, Representative Glenn Thompson
400 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member, Representative David Scott
468 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

We, the 80 undersigned societies and organizations, including the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health (MSCCH) which is composed of 57 major medical societies and 25 state clinician groups representing approximately 700,000 physicians and health care providers around the country, write in support of farm policy that prioritizes both affordable and nutritious food and clean air and water. To achieve this, we urge you to prioritize human health in upcoming farm policy discussions. This includes supporting both robust nutrition programs for economically challenged families and conservation programs that support soil health, air quality, and clean water.
Nutrition programs and conservation efforts are two sides of the same coin, and both are critically important in feeding families across the country. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program supports 12.5% of the US population (an estimated 41.2 million people, including 15 million children and over 1.2 million veterans). Programs like SNAP feed low-income Americans and foster healthier diets. At the same time, important conservation programs, like the Title 2 Conservation programs, can protect our health and environment, and restore healthy soil, water, and clean air, while simultaneously producing nutrient-dense food and are currently available to all 2 million US farmers. By safeguarding our food supply and farmland, these widely embraced conservation programs fortify soil resilience against the impacts of the climate crisis. They play a crucial role in safeguarding our nation's water supply, effectively mitigating antibiotic residues, chemical toxins, and harmful bacteria. This, in turn, saves billions of dollars allocated for water decontamination efforts and the treatment of multidrug-resistant infections. Climate-smart practices included in the conservation programs also decrease air pollution and greenhouse gas production, while saving farmers money by reducing fossil fuel, chemical fertilizer, and pesticide use.

As health care professionals and scientists, we urge you to prioritize nutrition security for all and to protect historic investments in conservation programs. Food security and clean air and water are essential to the health and mental health of our patients and communities. Both of these priorities merit the resources to ensure a healthier future for all.

Respectfully,

Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health Executive Committee Members

American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Physicians
American Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
Florida Clinicians for Climate Action

Medical Students for a Sustainable Future
Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility
Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action
Additional Signatories

Academic Pediatric Association
African Heritage Physician Associate Caucus
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Pediatrics CA2
American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, New Mexico Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, Nevada Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, Washington Chapter
American College of Lifestyle Medicine
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Heart Association
American Medical Student Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
Arizona Health Professionals for Climate Action
Association of Academic Psychiatrists
Association of Medical Device Reprocessors
Carolina Advocates for Climate, Health, and Equity
Children's Environmental Health Network
Climate Code Blue
Climate Health Now
Climate Psychiatry Alliance
Connecticut Health Professionals for Climate Action
Endocrine Society
Georgia Clinicians for Climate Action
Global Climate and Health Alliance
Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education
Health Care Without Harm
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
Healthy Air and Water Colorado
Healthy Climate Wisconsin
Idaho Clinicians for Climate and Health
Illinois Clinicians for Climate Action
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Interfaith Public Health Network
Mass General Brigham
Medical Society of Delaware
Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Michigan Allergy & Asthma Society
Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action
Michigan State Medical Society
Mississippi Health Professionals for Climate and Health Equity
National Environmental Health Association
National Medical Association
Nevada Clinicians for Climate Action
New Mexico Health Professionals for Climate Action
New Hampshire Healthcare Workers for Climate Action
Physicians Against Red Meat (PHARM)
Physicians for Social Responsibility
  ● Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility
  ● Physicians for Social Responsibility Iowa
  ● Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter
  ● Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
  ● Physicians for Social Responsibility New Mexico Chapter

● Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
● Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Planetary Health Alliance
Puerto Rico Clinicians for Climate Action
Radiologists for a Sustainable Future
Rhode Island Medical Society
Society for General Internal Medicine
Society for Pediatric Dermatology
Union of Concerned Scientists
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
White Coats for Planetary Health (UM)
Wilderness Medical Society
Yale Center on Climate Change and Health
Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center on Climate Change and Health