

Hon. Mike Johnson
House Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. John Boozman
Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Nutrition, and Forestry
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Nutrition, and Forestry
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. G.T. Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Angie Craig
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Tim Walberg
Chairman
House Committee on Education
the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Education and
and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Democratic Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Thune, Democratic Leader Schumer, Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Craig, Chairman Walberg, and Ranking Member Scott:

We, the undersigned national, state, and local organizations representing communities across the country, are deeply concerned about USDA's recent decisions to halt FY25 [Patrick Leahy](#)

[Farm to School Grants](#) and terminate FY25 federal funds for the [Local Food for Schools \(LFS\)](#) program.

Farm to School grants and LFS funds have enabled chronically [underfunded](#) school meal programs to offer students more fresh, local foods and promote consumption of these healthy choices. Their termination represents a significant threat to school nutrition programs, students' academic success, child health outcomes, childcare facilities, and local agriculture and workforce systems.

USDA provided notice that the Fiscal Year 2025 Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program has been [cancelled](#), meaning there will be no review of applications or award of \$10 million in grant funds this year. Similarly, states have been informed of the [termination](#) of federal funding agreements for LFS, eliminating an estimated [\\$660 million](#) that would have supported the purchase of healthy, local, and regional foods for schools and childcare facilities.

Farm to School Grants and LFS funds fuel vital connections across education, health, agriculture, and economic systems—investing in these programs energizes academic achievement, cultivates lifelong healthy eating habits, sustains local farmers and food producers, and drives regional food economies throughout America.

[Research](#) shows that school meals are the healthiest meals America's children eat. [Further studies show](#) that Farm to School programs improve student academic outcomes, test scores, and engagement in learning through experiential education that incorporates nutrition and agriculture into classroom curricula.

For every dollar invested in Farm to School programs, [studies across multiple states](#) confirm significant local economic multiplier effects. In Georgia, the economic output multiplier for farm-to-school production is 2.11, while in Minneapolis, it's 1.93—significantly higher than traditional food distribution channels.

Without these vital programs, school meal programs, already facing [critical funding shortfalls](#), will struggle to afford fresh, local foods amid rising costs. Children will lose access to nutrition education that shapes lifelong healthy eating habits. Local farmers will lose critical markets, and rural economies will suffer. The progress made in building sustainable local food systems, creating jobs, and improving child nutrition will be significantly undermined.

We urge Congress to work with USDA to swiftly restore funding for both the Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grants and the Local Food for Schools program. The educational success, health outcomes, economic resilience, and food security of our communities depend on your leadership.