



HEALTHCARE NUTRITION COUNCIL

Improving outcomes through awareness and action

Submitted via Email: WHHungerHealth@hhs.gov

September 23, 2022

Office of Public Engagement
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20504-0001

RE: Healthcare Nutrition Council Recommendations for the White House Conference

To Whom It May Concern,

The Healthcare Nutrition Council (HNC)¹ is submitting comments to address the policy recommendations put forward in a report by the Task Force on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health.² The report lays out a series of policy recommendations to advance the 2022 White House Conference goals ending hunger, improving nutrition, and reducing diet-related diseases. HNC supports the following policy recommendations:

Policy Recommendation #13: Accelerate access to “Food Is Medicine” services to prevent and treat diet-related illness

- HNC supports the Task Force’s recommendation that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Congress partner with the health care sector so that medically tailored meals are covered benefits in Medicare and Medicaid for targeted populations. HNC urges the passage of Medically Tailored Home-Delivered Meals Demonstration Pilot Act of 2021 (H.R.5370) so individuals have access to medically tailored meals.
- HNC supports the Task Force’s recommendation to develop evidence-based, targeted education campaigns on nutrition and health literacy for older adults.

Policy Recommendation #14: Increase access to and insurance coverage for behavioral interventions and nutrition counseling to improve diet and health.

- HNC supports the Task Force’s recommendation that Congress should expand Medicare and Medicaid coverage for medical nutrition therapy (MNT) to targeted individuals with diet-related illness and also give HHS the authority to expand coverage to include additional diet-related conditions.
- HNC supports the Task Force’s recommendation that Congress and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) expand coverage for medical nutrition therapies provided by registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN). HNC urges passage of the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act (S. 1536/H.R. 3108) as a way to improve patient access to RDNs for individuals who have been diagnosed with malnutrition or a number of other chronic conditions where nutrition intervention has been proven to be effective.
- HNC also urges the passage of the Medical Nutrition Equity Act (MNEA) (S. 2013/H.R. 3783) to improve health insurance coverage for all age groups who have conditions that use medically necessary nutrition products.



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Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations. Our previously submitted comments can be [found here](#). For questions and how HNC can be involved in the Conference, please contact Berit Dockter MPP, RD, LD at bdockter@healthcarenutrition.org or 202-207-1112.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Rankin".

Robert Rankin
Executive Director