

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Senate

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations

the fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriation for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

As you are likely aware, FDA is currently restructuring its human foods program to streamline operations and better fulfill its mission of food safety protection. While many of the proposed help modernize the human foods program by bringing clarity budget.

State and local food safety agencies frequently collaborate with FDA while conducting food processing, produce, and retail inspections. They also perform vital roles of education and outreach for the necessary prevention-focused infrastructure of an integrated food safety system that is required by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). They assist in identifying potential illness outbreaks, investigating illnesses, and effectuating product removals through recalls. Further, FDA often requests the use of state authority to expedite product recalls and removals, closures, embargoes, and similar actions. In total, states conduct 50 percent of human food processing inspections reported as completed by FDA, 70 percent of animal food processing inspections reported as completed by FDA, over 90 percent of produce safety inspections under the FDA produce safety program, and 100 percent of retail food inspections all at a lower cost to taxpayers than if FDA were to do this work itself. Further, state laboratories conduct a significant portion of all food sampling used for compliance verification and FDA-related food research.

Despite the critical role played by state and local food agencies, they frequently lack the budgetary certainty needed to operate effectively, which leads to difficulties in hiring and maintaining an adequate number of properly trained staff. Although increased funding provided since the passage of the 70U capacity to fulfill their food safety mission, FDA often uses funds meant for state and local agencies to pursue other priorities while giving little to no warning to impacted agencies.

In the FY25 budget proposal, FDA has proposed cutting resources to state and local programs by \$34 million from over \$117 million to \$83 million. This will decimate the ability of state and local programs to continue this level of partnership and greatly reduce the activity of food protection provided by these front-line programs.

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