

April 29, 2026

Statement for the Record

House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee Hearing

Healthier America: Legislative Proposals on the Regulation and Oversight of Food

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The Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) is thankful for the opportunity to provide comments on the House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee hearing titled, “Healthier America: Legislative Proposals on the Regulation and Oversight of Food”. For more than 80 years, IFT has brought together a diverse community of scientists, technologists, and professionals working in academia, industry, and government to ensure that our food supply is safe, nutritious, sustainable, and accessible. Our members span disciplines including chemistry, microbiology, engineering, nutrition, and data science – all fields that converge to support a modern, resilient food system.

IFT welcomes the growing interest among policymakers in strengthening the nation’s food system and improving healthfulness across the nation. To that end, **IFT commends the Health Subcommittee for holding this important discussion of strong legislative proposals to improve the health of American consumers, families, and children.** This renewed focus presents a critical opportunity: to ensure that food science expertise is meaningfully integrated into policy development and implementation.

This new focus on a Healthier America necessitates strong investments in interdisciplinary food science research. Whether addressing microbial risks, improving nutrient retention, studying food additive safety, exploring formulary or processing health impacts, reducing food waste, or advancing new technologies such as precision fermentation, food scientists play a central role in delivering outcomes that directly impact consumers. As such, **the inclusion of food science perspectives is not optional; it is essential to effective policymaking.**

A strong example of this interdisciplinary approach can be seen in the work surrounding H.R. 8432, introduced by Congresswoman Diana DeGette (CO-01). IFT strongly supports the establishment of a Human Foods Innovation Account to accelerate essential research activities within the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We also support the concept of an Advisory Committee on Human Foods, though Sec. 3(c) should be revised to ensure that statute directs the Committee to have members with specific expertise in food science and production, not solely nutrition, food safety, etc.

Additionally, removing barriers to expedite information sharing and adoption of traceability best practices as they support food safety and public health, is another example of the critical importance of food science, safety and traceability. **The effort to improve information sharing between federal and state authorities to protect public health, as seen in H.R. 8430, The**



Federal and State Food Safety Information Sharing Act, introduced by Congresswoman Deborah Ross (NC-02) and Congressman Michael Rulli (OH-06), is a needed step in supporting the application of traceability best practices across agencies. IFT is home to the Global Food Traceability Center (GFTC) and committed to supporting interoperable traceability standards to improve food safety and public health.

Equally important as the bills highlighted is the broader context in which this and the legislation before this hearing today have emerged. IFT and food scientists across the country welcome the renewed national focus on building a healthier America. The challenge of delivering safe, nutritious, and affordable food at scale is solvable, but only through sustained collaboration with Congress, the Administration, and other key partners.

IFT stands ready to serve as a trusted resource to policymakers, regulators, and stakeholders. Our members bring deep technical expertise and real-world experience across the entire food system – from production and processing to safety, nutrition, and innovation. We are committed to advancing evidence-based, practical solutions that protect public health while supporting a dynamic and resilient food sector. Meaningful progress will require strong partnerships across government, academia, and industry.

In closing, we commend the growing attention to food policy and its central role in the nation's well-being. We encourage policymakers to build on this momentum by fully integrating food science expertise into policy development and implementation. By leveraging the insights of food scientists, we can strengthen the food system, enhance public trust, and deliver healthier outcomes for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Anna Rosales

Anna Rosales, RD
Vice President – Science & Policy
Institute of Food Technologists