



**SCIENCE
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Center for Science in the Public Interest

2026 IMPACT REPORT



CENTER FOR
Science IN THE
Public Interest
Your Food and Health Watchdog



Photo: JD Photography

CENTER FOR
Science IN THE
Public Interest

CSPI campaigns are creating healthier communities for all by advancing evidence-based and community-informed policies on nutrition (Page 6), food safety (Page 13), and health (Page 16).

We hold government agencies and corporations to account and empower consumers with independent, unbiased information to live healthier lives.

A letter from Mayor Michael A. Nutter



Photo: Mayor Michael A. Nutter

"My hope is that we emerge from this administration with new resolve to stand together..."

Friends,

This is a time of tremendous change. Even as public interest in food policy is at an all-time high, several forces undermine our public health infrastructure: Disinvestment in health research, decimated federal nutrition programs, and rapid abandonment of evidence-based policy are shaking the foundations of our public health systems, fueling deeper health inequities and imposing real costs on families.

My hope is that we emerge from this administration with new resolve to stand together—defending our shared scientific and legal principles—so that we can rebuild a stronger, more equitable food and public health system, free from corporate influence or political interference. CSPI is pushing back on special interests and representing consumer interests as we:

- challenge the Trump administration in court for defunding crucial health research
- channel consumer enthusiasm for improving food and health into high-impact state-level policies grounded in science and informed by local communities
- evaluate and replicate those policies so they can serve as models for future federal action in a more favorable political climate
- support state and local allies, and
- continue to serve as the most reliable, unconflicted source of science-based food and health information.

Thank you for your interest and support at this critical time.

Onward,

Mayor Michael A. Nutter
CSPI Board Chair

A close-up portrait of Dr. Peter G. Lurie, an older man with white hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue shirt. The image is partially obscured by a white curved shape containing the title.

A letter from Dr. Peter G. Lurie

Dear Friends,

People across the country are calling for system-level changes to create a healthier, safer food supply and to fight chronic disease.

The Trump administration capitalized on these growing calls for reform from those who rightly feel underserved by the nation's food and public health systems and promised to "Make America Healthy Again." Unfortunately, instead of embracing the public's goodwill to truly address chronic disease through strong, evidence-based solutions, this administration has consistently made decisions that will actively harm everyone who lives in the US.

The president continues to appoint unqualified cabinet members who spread harmful conspiracy theories. His appointees have moved to dismantle crucial public health infrastructure, including the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). They have sown doubt about the integrity of US public health policy and institutions, while claiming that these actions are informed by evidence and free from conflicts of interest. Purveyors of misinformation, including many within the administration itself, feed that mistrust and provide cover for sweeping disinvestments from nutrition, medicine, and research.

HHS is taking away hard-won consumer protections against vaccine-preventable diseases, foodborne illnesses, and diet-related chronic disease. And while the agency has little to offer as a salve, its actions serve as a major distraction from the administration's tariffs, immigration policies, and Medicaid cuts that undermine food producers, healthcare providers, and consumers.

In HHS's stead is a phalanx of grifters from the wellness industry, poised to sell consumers personal electronic health devices and poorly regulated supplements with unsupported claims of preventing and reversing chronic disease.

In these uncertain times, you can trust CSPI.

CSPI has advocated independently on behalf of consumer interests through five decades of Republican and Democratic administrations. We are made for this moment. We have always been nonpartisan actors because we have always looked first and last at the science—it's even in our name. That clear lens has enabled us to bring evidence-based and community-informed food and health policies to bear during every administration since 1971. Our financial independence makes us beholden only to the hundreds of thousands of loyal contributors who value our mission. CSPI investigates the evidence, follows the science, and applies our findings to develop proven policies prioritizing what matters most: the health of people and our communities.

In this time of political upheaval, we are working to mitigate harm; maintain a vision of true food-system transformation; ensure accountability for political leadership by calling out actions that harm public health; reveal the truth about how these actions destabilize our food system; and speak up when actions don't match rhetoric.

We seek partners for continued success as we hold government and industry to account and fight for the public interest—in Washington, in the courts, and in your community. Building on our accomplishments, we look forward to addressing the challenges to come.

On behalf of everyone at CSPI, and those whose health we improve with our work, I thank you for your shared commitment to independence, scientific rigor, and transparency, as well as your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Peter".

Dr. Peter G. Lurie
President

CSPI IS CHALLENGING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

"[NIH's] norm [of 'apolitical scientific research'] changed on January 20, 2025. The new Administration began weaponizing what should not be weaponized—the health of all Americans through its abuse of HHS and the NIH systems, creating chaos and promoting an unreasonable and unreasoned agenda of blacklisting certain topics, that...has absolutely nothing to do with the promotion of science or research."

—Excerpt from Judge William Young's Order (dated July 2, 2025)

► Read more on Pages 16 and 17 about this case and the many ways CSPI is working to challenge unlawful and unethical actions of the Trump administration—on social media, in the courts, and on Capitol Hill.

"Building on our accomplishments, we look forward to addressing the challenges to come."

Leveraging policy to support nutrition and health

A healthy populace begins with a healthy food environment. For more than 50 years, we've advanced health-promoting policies at the federal, state, and local levels by developing evidence-based recommendations and model policies and partnering with grassroots organizations. CSPI supports state and local allies, lending technical and financial assistance to develop, pass, and evaluate novel, equity-advancing food and nutrition policies.

CSPI is intent on protecting the scientific integrity of our public health policies, and that effort starts with implementing evidence-based nutrition recommendations and supporting strong federal nutrition programs.

Securing funding for our campaigns in the coming year will be crucial as we communicate accurate dietary advice and protect and strengthen America's nutrition programs—defending science, expanding benefits, safeguarding access, and ensuring our leaders deliver nutrition security for every household.

We are working with allies to build a food system that serves everyone.

PRESERVING SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY IN THE DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR AMERICANS

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) are the federal government's science-based advice on what to eat and drink to meet nutrient needs and reduce chronic disease.

The DGA inform all federal nutrition programs and impact at least one in four people living in the US through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), as well as nutrition services for seniors, Native Americans, every branch of the military,

and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Given the DGA's reach and impact, they are among the most influential levers in shifting food procurement and dietary patterns.

CSPI is protecting public health against multiple threats to the scientific integrity of the DGA. Specifically, we are:

- dispelling misinformation about the scientific validity of past DGA recommendations and increasing awareness of the DGA's role in shaping nutrition programs
- countering the federal government's 2025-2030 DGA that we expect will be rooted in misinformation—rather than scientific evidence—by developing an important tool for advocates and policymakers: CSPI's Uncompromised Dietary Guidelines, unaffected by industry and politics, and based entirely on the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee's scientific report recommendations
- analyzing the range of legal and policy implications of a compromised DGA to prepare tailored advocacy approaches for each federal agency and nutrition program, and
- developing additional recommendations for a Sustainable DGA and laying a path for regulators and lawmakers to improve both human and environmental health.

LEADING THE CHARGE ON DEFINING AND REGULATING HARMFUL ULTRAPROCESSED FOODS

The need to address harmful ultraprocessed foods is a rare area of agreement among food system advocates across the political spectrum. The health risks associated with “ultraprocessed foods” are making headlines, but there's not yet a universally accepted definition of this term that can be



operationalized for US policy. In response to federal agencies' request for information on this topic, CSPI is proposing a science-based approach to define and regulate harmful ultraprocessed foods to lay the groundwork for policies that could comprehensively improve diet quality and related health outcomes.

In the meantime, we continue to call for a wide range of policies that can address harmful processed foods even before a new standardized definition is announced. CSPI supports:

- marketing restrictions and nutrient warning labels
- taxes on sweetened beverages
- sodium and added sugars reduction targets for the food industry
- nutrition standards for federal procurement programs
- overhauling the food chemical regulatory system to stop unsafe additives from entering our food supply
- ensuring child nutrition programs have adequate resources to serve healthy, wholesome, scratch-cooked meals, and
- implementing all policies to reduce consumption of harmful processed foods with a focus on protecting vulnerable groups, such as children, and without exacerbating food insecurity, poverty, and inequality.

CSPI has long been the leading advocate for front-of-package nutrition labeling and overhauling the food chemical regulatory system. The Trump administration has indicated it plans to advance both of these policies. However, Trump and his political appointees have also generally opposed new regulations and promised to deregulate, favoring public education campaigns and



CSPI helped to pass New York City's Sweet Truth Act, which requires warning labels on prepackaged food and drinks that contain more than a day's worth of added sugars.

voluntary industry actions. We seek support to hold the administration accountable for advancing policies that promote healthy diets and reduce our reliance on harmful ultraprocessed foods.

PUTTING HEALTHY FOOD WITHIN REACH THROUGH SNAP

SNAP is one of the nation's most effective tools against hunger and poverty, improving health outcomes while also driving economic growth. However, SNAP is in dire straits, as Congress has cut \$186 billion from the program over ten years and may force some states to eliminate

the program entirely; political leaders are also rolling back recent benefit increases and imposing restrictive eligibility rules. All of these actions will strip food access from millions and drive up rates of hunger and food insecurity, which won't just harm adults: Nearly 40% of people who rely on SNAP are children.

Following these historic cuts to SNAP access and benefits, the USDA ended its 30-year practice of collecting and reporting annually on rates of food insecurity, which will make it challenging for advocates like CSPI to understand the impacts of the cuts and help shape policies to combat hunger in the future.



CSPI secured a proposed rule for front-of-package nutrition labeling in 2025 after years of research and advocacy. CSPI continues to advocate for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to finalize the rule.



CSPI supported the effort to win the Give SNAP A Raise Act in DC, which provided a financial supplement to local SNAP beneficiaries in DC equal to 10% of a household's federal maximum monthly allotment.

Our goals for ensuring access to SNAP are ambitious but achievable. We're advocating for:

- a Farm Bill that fully funds SNAP and does so without work requirements, as most SNAP participants who can work already do
- the USDA to raise the bar for what a SNAP retailer must carry and ensure retailers have the support they need to meet those standards so SNAP shoppers can find a variety of healthy, high-quality foods that align with the FDA definition of "healthy," no matter where they shop, and
- reinstatement of the Household Food Security Report, the major annual report tracking hunger in America. CSPI is also urging USDA to establish metrics and regular reporting for nutrition security.

► Learn more at cspi.org/SNAPpriorities

IMPROVING NUTRITION SECURITY IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Federal disinvestment in SNAP presents a special challenge for state public health leaders. While we're working to cement a healthy, federally funded SNAP in the next Farm Bill, CSPI will also be working with state advocates to:

- preserve and expand access to fresh produce through incentive or dollar-match programs for all SNAP participants
- help states incorporate those incentives onto electronic benefit (EBT) cards, thereby

"My kids are eating healthier because of this program—it makes a real difference."

—EBT shopper in Washington state's SNAP Produce Rewards program

- removing another barrier to healthy foods
- strengthen local administration of Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) in communities experiencing natural disasters to shorten the time it takes for impacted families to receive food assistance, and
- provide technical support to states interested in SNAP demonstration projects seeking to pair fruit and vegetable incentives with disincentives for sugary beverages.

HARNESSING PUBLIC TAX DOLLARS TO TRANSFORM THE FOOD ENVIRONMENT

CSPI is helping communities and institutions—from schools to prisons—ensure their procurement dollars are used to purchase and serve food that nourishes health, promotes equity, and supports a more sustainable future. Instead of awarding contracts to the lowest bidder, values-aligned purchasing policies lift up communities, uphold our shared values of health and fairness, and can help develop healthier and more just food supply chains.

CSPI is countering the lobbying influence of the agriculture industry and raising awareness among the public about how food purchasing affects the lives of millions. We're partnering with the Center for Good Food Purchasing and others to enroll institutions in cities and counties nationwide in values-based procurement commitments.

CSPI is campaigning alongside coalition partners to:

- pass the first-ever state-level values-aligned purchasing policy
- compel major food service providers to improve nutrition standards in the carceral system, and
- assist schools and other public institutions nationwide in adopting values-aligned purchasing policies.

► Learn more at cspi.org/GoodFood

Championing health equity

CSPI is prioritizing two areas to address the root causes of health disparities in the United States—labor and water access. We are connecting with community partners and minority-serving organizations with expertise on these topics, while also incorporating a health equity lens into all our existing policy campaigns.

INVESTIGATING RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AND PRICE DISCRIMINATION

Food retailers like supermarkets and superstores serve as a critical food access point for communities. But they can also use restrictive covenants to block competitors from opening new stores, potentially leaving neighborhoods without access to healthy food.

CSPI conducted a first-of-its-kind research study to document food retailers’ use of restrictive covenants and to identify policy opportunities for regulating industry practices that may undermine healthy food access.

In the coming months, we’re examining whether communities could benefit from replacing restrictive covenants that limit food access with policies that encourage grocery retailers to enter areas of low food access. We are seeking support for this research and

policy development. Our three-step approach is already underway, and includes:

- conducting an assessment of where food retail restrictive covenants are in place and where bans have been enacted, with a view toward publishing a law review article on the topic
- pending the prevalence study’s results, drafting a restrictive covenant model policy, and
- investing in local policy campaigns to address harmful restrictive covenants.

Affordability is the most-cited barrier to healthy eating. Food retailers exacerbate this problem with pricing practices that prioritize their shareholders over their customers. The Federal Trade Commission uncovered evidence of retailer price gouging during the COVID-19 pandemic. Communities have rallied against corporate retailers’ price discrimination, including allegations that some retailers charge more for food in locations with lower socioeconomic status. CSPI is investigating whether online retailers discriminate against shoppers who shop with SNAP by charging them more than non-SNAP shoppers. Specifically, we would like to:

- conduct a price discrimination policy scan to identify policies that protect consumers from unfair pricing
- publish a retailer SNAP price discrimination study, and
- explore actions at the regulatory agency level, corporate campaigns, and litigation based on findings from the retailer price discrimination study.

FOOD DONATION POLICIES THAT FIGHT HUNGER, SUPPORT HEALTH, AND CUT FOOD WASTE

Food insecurity in America is rising. And food banks that were meant for emergencies are increasingly a necessary lifeline for those

who’ve lost access to federal food safety net programs or who can’t make ends meet even with support from SNAP.

Many food banking programs prioritize quantity over quality, resulting in waste and families going without healthy options. Tax breaks and retailer practices reward surplus donations of shelf-stable, packaged foods, but do nothing to incentivize donations of fresh, healthy options. And food banks often have limited funds for storage, refrigeration, and transportation, which makes it difficult to stock fresh, healthy foods.

CSPI is advancing state-level policies that:

- support food banks to adopt and implement healthier practices
- allocate state funds for Farm-to-Food Bank programs
- pressure retailers to donate more nutritious foods, and
- reduce food waste through organic waste bans and standardized date labeling on food items.

In Washington, DC, CSPI is working to secure a Farm Bill that increases funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program Farm-to-Food Bank projects and reinstates Local Food Purchasing Assistance funding.

► Learn more at cspi.org/HealthyFoodBanks

Climate-sensitive food policy

Building on our nutrition policy successes in the restaurant, grocery, and public sectors, **CSPI is pushing for ways to reduce the climate footprint of our food system.** We are seeking funds for campaigns that develop a multi-prong approach to increase access to healthy foods, while also promoting plant-forward diets and sustainability goals, and reducing food loss and waste:

- compel state and local chain restaurants to offer at least one kids meal that meets both the DGA nutrition standards and includes a sustainability component
- bring values-based procurement policies to cities and states, shifting food service contracts from the lowest price bidder to those who also meet sustainability-informed bottom lines, and
- reduce food loss and waste which costs families an average of nearly \$3,000 annually and contributes to 58% of methane emissions. Two opportunities ripe for success include:
 - passing a federal expiration date labeling law that sets standardized “Best By” dates to reduce consumer confusion, unnecessary food waste, and methane emissions, and
 - passing state organic waste bans to divert healthy and safe food from landfills to food banks.



18,000 consumers across the country signed CSPI’s petition opposing tariffs and calling on the Trump administration to abandon the broad-based tariff plan that threatens the affordability of healthy food for all families.

Photo: City of Chicago.





Safer food and supplements

Securing wins in the states

Community-focused policies begin at home. CSPI has partnered with more than 70 community-based organizations in dozens of states to introduce novel food policies. As the federal government disinvests from public health, we're increasing our work at the state level to advance the health-supporting policies people want—healthier and safe food options, food banking that supports those in need with wholesome options, and more nutritious meals in schools, hospitals, and prisons.

For example, we are working to:

- pass the first-ever state-level GRAS disclosure bill
- pass the first-ever state-level values-aligned purchasing policy
- pass the first-ever state-level sweetened beverage tax
- incorporate fresh produce incentives onto electronic benefit (EBT) cards for SNAP participants, and
- defend against federal pre-emption measures that would bar states from passing their own policies.

We are seeking state-level funders to partner with us as we build a healthier food system from the ground up, right alongside the cities, counties, and states poised to act now to make everyone healthier, especially as national policies seem more likely to make us less healthy.

FUELING HEALTHIER CHILDREN AND BRIGHTER FUTURES WITH NUTRITIOUS SCHOOL FOOD

We are committed to preserving the nutrition standards we have secured for school meals. But we are concerned about rollbacks that expose kids to excess sodium, saturated fat, added sugars, or harmful additives.


To improve the food landscape for our nation's kids, CSPI is leading the national conversation on improving the nutritional quality of school foods. We are working to:

- ensure that the new added-sugars standards are implemented fully and on schedule
- ensure that any policies intended to reduce harmful ultraprocessed foods in schools are paired with increased resources and infrastructure to support scratch-cooking
- increase the number of states adopting free, healthy meal programs for all schoolchildren, in partnership with state and local allies, and
- promote bold policy recommendations that would make the school meal programs that feed 40 million of America's kids more equitable and sustainable.

► Learn more at cspi.org/HealthySchools

"I think food banks for a long time were focused far too much on just getting calories to people...Food banks need to think more about health because of the health disparities that do exist for individuals who utilize emergency food."

—A food bank staff member



If there is one thing that people across the political spectrum agree on, it's that our systems for keeping dangerous chemicals, contaminants, and pathogens out of food are broken and in need of an overhaul.

CSPI is making a crucial difference by shaping policy and pushing for regulations that protect consumers—particularly children—from foodborne illness, unsafe additives, and targeted marketing for dietary supplements.

We seek funding to help us continue leading the charge in this fight and create a healthier future for all.

GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND FOOD INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABILITY

Baby food and formula don't have set limits for toxic elements like lead, mercury, and cadmium. Ingredients of concern are allowed to remain in food long after we know they are unsafe. Food and chemical companies can introduce new, poorly tested chemicals into the food supply without even notifying the FDA.

But it doesn't have to be this way. As the nation's leading group calling for food additive safety, CSPI now has a more critical role than ever in holding both government and industry to account.

It shouldn't be the job of everyday people to navigate the minefield our agencies and corporations have made of the food supply. That's why CSPI is leveraging every opportunity to put pressure on the FDA and Congress to reform the food chemical regulatory system, remove unsafe chemicals, and set strict limits on toxic elements in our food supply. We promote:

- reassessing the safety of chemicals already in our food, starting first with those most clearly linked to harm
- closing the "Generally Recognized as Safe" (GRAS) loophole that lets untested food chemicals onto the market and allows companies to bypass the FDA altogether

- requiring food companies to list every ingredient in their products, and
- setting heavy metals limits on formula and baby foods so we don't have to worry that they're tainted with high levels of lead or other harmful contaminants.

While we wait for the FDA to catch up, CSPI maintains Chemical Cuisine, our database of food additive safety ratings, to help the public, the press, and policymakers understand which additives are safe and which aren't. And we're working at the state level to:

- remove unsafe additives from school foods and store shelves, and
- pass the first-ever state-level GRAS disclosure bill, which would force food manufacturers to notify state authorities when selling food containing ingredients they haven't disclosed to FDA (or "secret GRAS" substances) and provide information to the state demonstrating those substances are safe.

Funding these campaigns would reduce our exposure to unsafe additives and force companies to provide enough information for consumers to make healthier choices.

REFORMING THE DIETARY SUPPLEMENT MARKET

Dietary supplement companies often use misleading and deceptive marketing tactics to sell untested, potentially harmful products to

vulnerable groups, like young teens and older adults. While certain supplements are necessary for health, such as prenatal supplements, there are 90,000 unique supplement products sold by a \$65 billion industry. Reform is needed to ensure the necessary supplements are safe while weeding out the unsafe and fraudulent products.

Because the FDA doesn't know which products are on the market or whether supplements are adulterated with contaminants like heavy metals or drugs, and the FDA can only ask the US Department of Justice to pursue criminal charges (an extremely resource-intensive process that is rarely used), CSPI supports federal-level dietary supplement reform policies that:

- require manufacturers to list their supplements with the FDA, and submit new dietary supplement ingredients to the FDA for pre-market review
- make testing for heavy metals compulsory and set tolerance levels specific to vulnerable populations, such as pregnant individuals
- add additional inspections and testing for high-risk supplements, such as weight-loss and sexual enhancement supplements, and
- authorize the FDA and states to levy civil penalties against manufacturers that sell unsafe and fraudulent supplements.

At the state level, we are leading the efforts to pass supplement policies that protect children,

In the last months of the Biden administration, **CSPI secured a ban on the use of Red 3 food dye** in foods, beverages, oral drugs, and dietary supplements. It resolved our decades-old campaign against the carcinogen, which is widely used in the US, including in foods marketed to children. Companies must comply by January 2027. The current administration has expressed interest in eliminating harmful dyes and other additives, approaching their removal mostly through "understandings" with industry instead of regulation. We will be tracking developments to hold the administration and industry accountable.

For too long, kids and teenagers have been able to purchase weight-loss and muscle-building supplements over the counter or online. The FDA has warned that these supplements are often ineffective, and worse, may be laced with pharmaceuticals, steroids, and stimulants.



families, and older adults from unsafe products and malicious marketing practices.

These include:

- new prenatal multivitamin regulations—like Senate Bill 646 we supported in California—to ensure companies test and disclose heavy metal levels in their supplements, providing transparency and safety for expectant families
- legislation that prevents minors from purchasing certain supplements, such as weight-loss and muscle-building products, and
- authorization for states to levy civil penalties against companies marketing fraudulent and unsafe dietary supplements to consumers.

With your support, we can implement these measures and ensure the safety and integrity of dietary supplements.

► Learn more at cspi.org/FoodChem

PREVENTING FOOD POISONING AND REDUCING RECALLS

People living in the United States understand why independent federal safeguards are

CSPI led a successful policy campaign to ban the sale of supplements for weight-loss or muscle-building to minors in New York State, which went into effect in 2024. CSPI is working with legislators in Massachusetts, California, Maryland, and other states for similar legislation that protects children from dangerous and fraudulent supplements.

important to our food system. Yet with massive layoffs and resignations of federal workers under the Trump administration, nearly one in every five FDA food inspector positions is now standing vacant, and 40% of the agency's infant formula inspection positions are unfilled—a staggering gap. Key federal standards have been scrapped or delayed, including those requiring better food traceability to solve outbreaks and those setting limits on *Salmonella* in poultry.

We are fighting to restore staffing and funding to the agencies that keep our food safe from foodborne illnesses.

In the coming year, we will stand up for consumers and defend the integrity of our federal food safety infrastructure by:

- fighting to restore the systems that solve foodborne outbreaks and track foodborne illness, including the FoodNet active surveillance program at the CDC
- defending progress on safety rules to prevent outbreaks
- exposing and opposing harms from raw milk
- promoting progress on new standards for food traceability and *Salmonella* in poultry, and
- petitioning for clear, standardized expiration date labeling and traceability labeling that helps agencies conduct faster, more efficient outbreak investigations.

Funding these campaigns would improve the safety of all foods in the US, reduce outbreaks and recalls, and help consumers handle food more safely at home—all toward the goal of preventing needless sickness and death.

► Learn more at cspi.org/FoodSafety

Independent, evidence-based public health policy



CSPI was successful in leading an effort to restore funding to the CDC Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice. After HHS Sec. Kennedy eliminated the entire office that protects the public from exposure to environmental health hazards, we sounded the alarm in a letter signed by a dozen groups. That led to congressional questioning of Kennedy and coverage by National Public Radio of the consequences of shuttering the office that is responsible for protecting against contaminants in food and water, infectious disease outbreaks in restaurants and on cruise ships, air pollution, radiation and chemical weapons exposures, mold, and other outbreaks caused by toxic substances.

The COVID-19 pandemic shone a bright light on the importance of public health policy, but also on the known shortcomings of our public health system. For decades, independent science has been undermined by undue industry influence, anti-science influencers with political agendas, and those seeking personal financial gain. The second Trump administration has turbocharged those forces, shaking the public's confidence in rigorously tested drugs like vaccines and acetaminophen, as well as in scientific research more broadly.

CSPI is responding to the sustained assault on two bastions crucial to the effective functioning of a democracy:

- the need for consensus science to inform health policy, and
- the need for unbiased, transparent, and accountable federal health agencies that relay reliable information, adopt consumer-protective regulation, and sponsor research dedicated to improving health.

Relying on our closely guarded independence and scientific expertise, CSPI is defending these bulwarks of democracy from the forces of anti-science in the public health and corporate spheres.

DEFENDING SCIENCE IN THE COURTS

In 2025, along with our co-counsel at the ACLU, Protect Democracy, and the Emery Celli law firm, CSPI is litigating a landmark case against the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and HHS, challenging the new policies that led to the abrupt and unlawful cancellation of biomedical research. These grants, supporting research in a variety of important areas ranging from kidney disease to Alzheimer's, were abruptly terminated because the Trump administration deemed them related to DEI, gender ideology, vaccine hesitancy, and other topics they disfavor.

We successfully obtained a partial final judgment that the new policies and the resulting termination of the research grants were illegal and must be set aside. The defendants appealed that ruling and sought to

pause its enforcement. In its emergency docket, the Supreme Court decided to pause the part of the judgment about termination of grants, but did not pause the part about the policies.

The Supreme Court's ruling was a setback for public health because it impedes the ability of the public to effectively challenge policy decisions made by the administration when those decisions concern funding.

Effective public health policy must be built on rigorous scientific evidence independent of bias and formed through research on all members of the population. That's why CSPI is defending the judgment on appeal and considering other claims to ensure that the NIH fulfills its congressionally mandated mission of conducting rigorous biomedical research that supports the health of the entire US population. And, because the Supreme Court emergency docket ruling was on only the limited pause question, we may also be back at that Court on this case, this time on a full appeal on the merits.

Help us support our litigation and build our team to pursue this and other litigation to defend research integrity aimed at improving public health and safety for all.

PROMOTING US GOVERNMENT AGENCY INDEPENDENCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The independence of health regulatory agencies has come under assault like never before. Guidances are being altered, government-sponsored research is being censored for political purposes, scientists are being silenced, and websites are being censored. The FDA, USDA, HHS, and many other executive agencies are led and advised not by scientists or policy experts, but by those who have pledged personal loyalty to the president, many of whom stand to benefit financially from regulatory action and inaction.

CSPI is engaged in campaigns to:

- maintain funding for essential health divisions, and

- closely monitor conflicts of interest in FDA advisory committees, assess their legality, and recommend possible legal options when warranted.

We seek funding to hold health-related government agencies and health officials accountable and reduce the influence of those with political and financial interests over the FDA and other agencies.

ADVANCING EFFECTIVE DRUG AND MEDICAL DEVICE REGULATION

The regulatory systems we have built to protect consumers in the United States often contain loopholes and are subject to industry influence, leading to bad regulatory decisions that sometimes leave consumers vulnerable to flawed medical testing and ineffective and harmful drugs. At the same time, deregulatory efforts and unscientific guidance around drugs and medical devices risk the health of consumers. CSPI aims to serve as an important counterpoint, defending and strengthening consumer protections in an era when public health is increasingly under threat.

To that end, CSPI is engaging in advocacy to ensure consumers have improved access to safe, effective, and reliable drugs and medical devices through regulatory transparency and reform. We seek to:

- strengthen drug approval standards and defend against proposals that include only safety considerations and omit efficacy concerns as part of the approval decision
- protect vaccine access and availability
- increase the affordability and availability of drugs that can help manage and treat chronic disease, including GLP-1s, and
- ensure strong regulations for lab-developed tests.

We are also working to educate the public with unbiased, evidence-based information on drugs and medical devices that are commonly covered in the media, including vaccine safety, GLP-1 drugs, and lab-developed tests. (See our campaign on Page 20.)

Nutrition Action: Five decades fighting for food and health

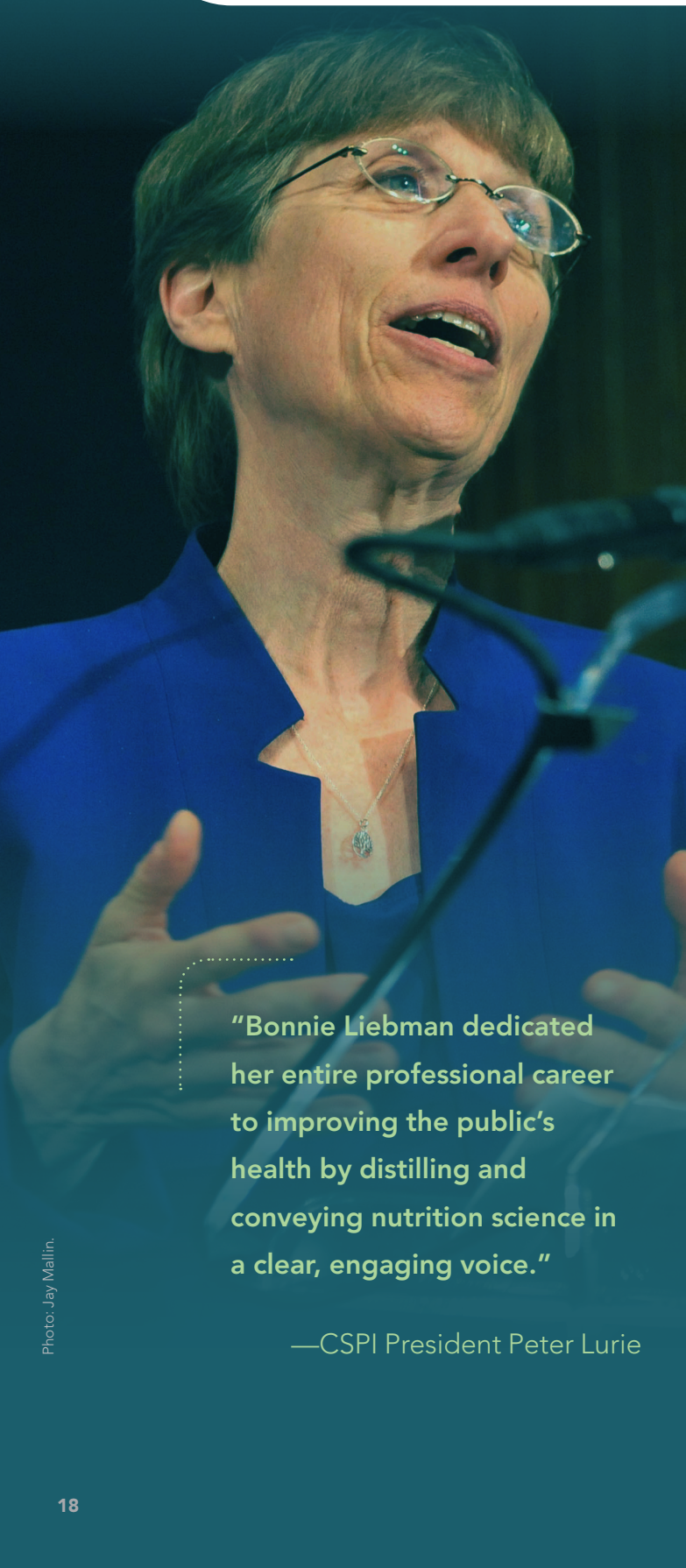


Photo: Jay Mallin.

"Bonnie Liebman dedicated her entire professional career to improving the public's health by distilling and conveying nutrition science in a clear, engaging voice."

—CSPI President Peter Lurie

► AFTER 48 YEARS, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF NUTRITION BONNIE LIEBMAN, MS, STEPS DOWN

In 1977, Bonnie Liebman got it right the first time.

Years before finishing her master's degree, Liebman set her sights on working at CSPI. (A *Washington Post* article about our work tipped her off.) And soon after graduation, she took the job. Liebman was in search of a career that combined science and advocacy to make a real difference in people's lives—and she found it at CSPI. As Liebman steps down from an impressive 48 years with the organization, here's a quick look back at her approach and accomplishments.

TRANSLATE THE SCIENCE. Liebman's leadership on nutrition at CSPI grew from decades of sifting through research on diet and cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, memory loss, and more. She'd scour scientific journals for the latest compelling studies, interview leading researchers, and then deliver the news to hundreds of thousands of readers in *Nutrition Action* (NA).

SPREAD THE NEWS. Liebman's expertise and consumer instincts made her a perennial source for reporters seeking a science-minded advocate on food, nutrition, and health. Over the years, you may have read Liebman's incisive quotes in *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post* or seen her on "Good Morning America" or "The Today Show," among many others.

HOLD THE FOOD INDUSTRY TO ACCOUNT. Under Liebman's leadership, *Nutrition Action* has become a publication where science and journalism meet advocacy. Influential articles reach not just our members, but food companies and policymakers. When NA's annual Xtreme Eating Awards spotlighted some of the worst dishes at chain restaurants and made headlines, that ultimately helped CSPI convince Congress to require chain restaurants to post calories on their menus.

PROTECT THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH. Liebman's nutrition expertise has been a key link in formulating CSPI's policies on diet and health. Over the years, she's worked on numerous petitions to federal agencies, such as petitions to require labeling or limits on added sugars or sodium, as well as countless responses to proposed regulations, letters to the editor, lawsuits against misleading food labels, and other advocacy efforts to improve the food supply.

BE A TRUSTED VOICE. At a time when many people get health advice from influencers, politicians, or charlatans, *Nutrition Action* starts with the science. Liebman has shaped NA's coverage of everything from cancer research to the cereal aisle. At its core, NA gives advice grounded in science and equips consumers with the clarity to see through misleading claims and misinformation on ads, social media, and food packages.

Filling Liebman's shoes won't be easy. But *Nutrition Action* isn't going anywhere. In fact, the team of CSPI staff working on NA will grow, adding writers and editors as NA joins with our web content team and works closely with our growing misinformation efforts (Page 20). Together, the robust team will produce all consumer-focused articles that CSPI shares in print and online and accelerate NA's digital transformation.

"Bonnie Liebman dedicated her entire professional career to improving the public's health by distilling and conveying nutrition science in a clear, engaging voice," says Peter Lurie, CSPI's president. "We're grateful for her tireless commitment to our mission and, as a result, for *Nutrition Action*'s tremendous impact."



Nutrition Action: Over 50 years and counting

Six times per year, CSPI's flagship publication reaches hundreds of thousands of readers with the latest findings on how to stay healthy. We also share that information with our growing online audience in the collection of timely *Nutrition Action* articles posted on cspi.org. *Nutrition Action* has no advertising and takes no government or industry donations, so we're free to tell it like it is. Every issue helps readers sort through the noise on food and health with features on topics like nutrition, exercise, supplements, food safety, and health; reviews of healthy and unhealthy food products; and delicious recipes.

Consider making a gift in honor of Bonnie Liebman to support independent expert advice, clear translation of nutrition science, and policies that advance public health. Visit cspi.org/bonnie to learn more.

Want to **subscribe to Nutrition Action**? Visit subscribe.nutritionaction.com.

COMBATING MISINFORMATION

In 2018, RAND characterized this time as one of “Truth Decay,” or an era of diminishing reliance on facts and evidence. The causes of this are complex but have resulted in an erosion of trust—particularly in experts and authoritative sources—that has led to confusion, uncertainty, and susceptibility to misinformation.

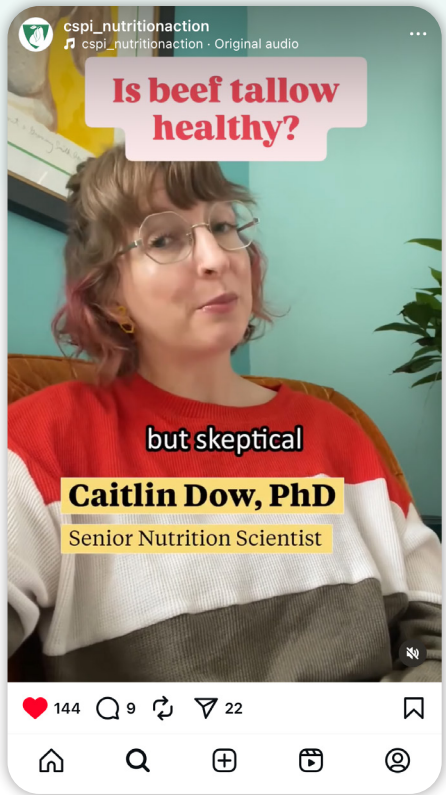
Our skill sets in evidence evaluation and science communication, as well as our reputation and legacy in public health, mean that CSPI is uniquely positioned to intervene. We aim to be a source of reliable information to help stem the tide of “truth decay.”

Our goal is to combat misinformation in the nutrition and health space by serving as a trusted source of clear, evidence-based information for those who may be “curious and confused”—unsure what to believe but open to learning—through all media and advocacy channels, including:

- long-form articles
- social media videos and posts
- partnerships with similar organizations, and
- appearances in traditional media and podcasts.

CSPI’s misinformation-combating initiative provides accessible, evidence-based insights that don’t stoke fear. Ultimately, we aim to strengthen public resilience against misinformation and continue our proud legacy of being a bedrock institution for trustworthy health information.

► Learn more at cspi.org/Misinfo



Tracking changes to vaccine policy

The US has seen many changes in federal vaccine policy and programs, some of which threaten to harm the health and safety of millions. The Straight Shot—our running list of new and ongoing shifts in vaccine policies—is drawn from news reports and other information. We sort each new update by significance, and our editors—former public health officials and CSPI President Peter Lurie—add brief explanatory commentary. Sign up to receive the newest updates by email.

► Updates are published regularly at cspi.org/thestraightshot

Support our advocacy for a healthier America

As a nonprofit organization that takes no donations from industry, CSPI relies on the support of donors to continue our work in securing a safe, nutritious, and transparent food system. Supporting CSPI allows our experts and advocates to be nimble in our response—whether it is litigating in the courts, defending scientists, opposing nominations, supporting whistleblowers, taking our fight to the states, or countering misinformation. **Donate today.**

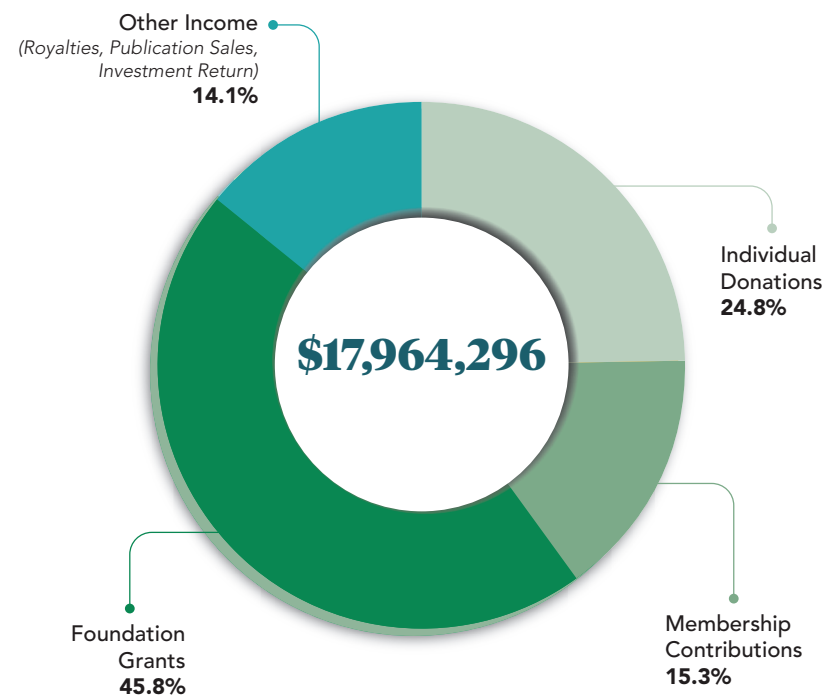
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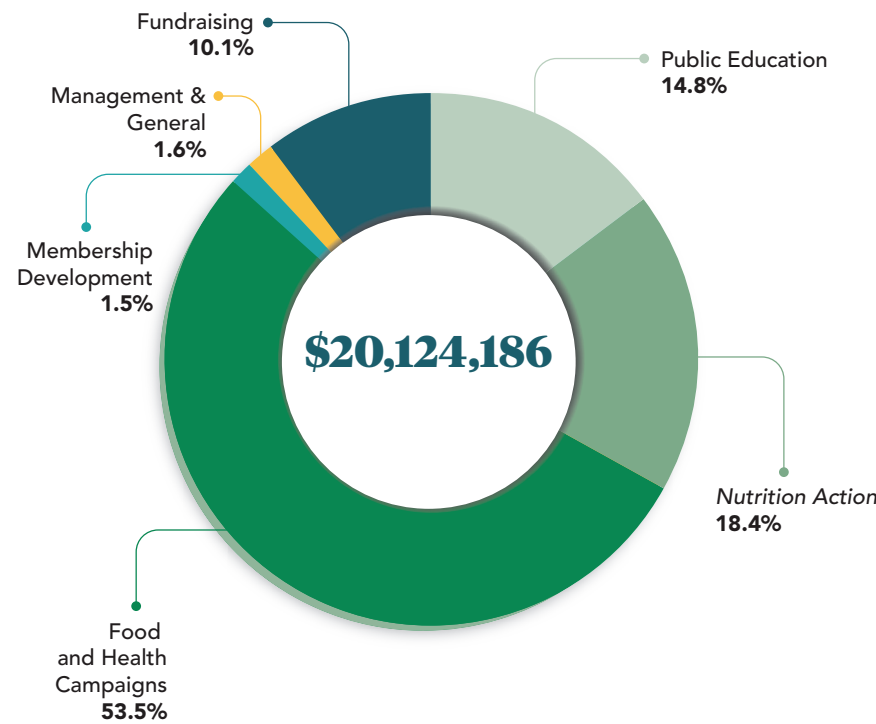
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FY26 Revenue



FY26 Expenses



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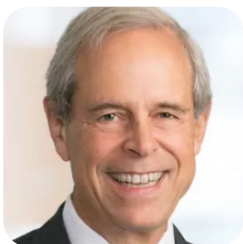
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For a complete listing of staff, please see cspi.org/page/people

CSPI's Vision

CSPI envisions thriving communities supported by equitable, sustainable, and science-based solutions advancing nutrition, food safety, and health.



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