FOOD FIGHT
A SPECIAL IMPACT REPORT FOR PARTNERS & BENEFACTORS
CENTER FOR Science IN THE Public Interest
Your Food and Health Watchdog
FALL 2026

CSPI Responds to Public Health Attacks

As the nation's leading food and health watchdog, CSPI fights for evidence-based nutrition, food safety, and health policies that protect the public. In year two of the second Trump Administration, our critical watchdog role is more important than ever. The Administration's budget cuts and disastrous policies continue to put our health and safety at risk, starving public health agencies and decimating critical nutrition and food safety programs.

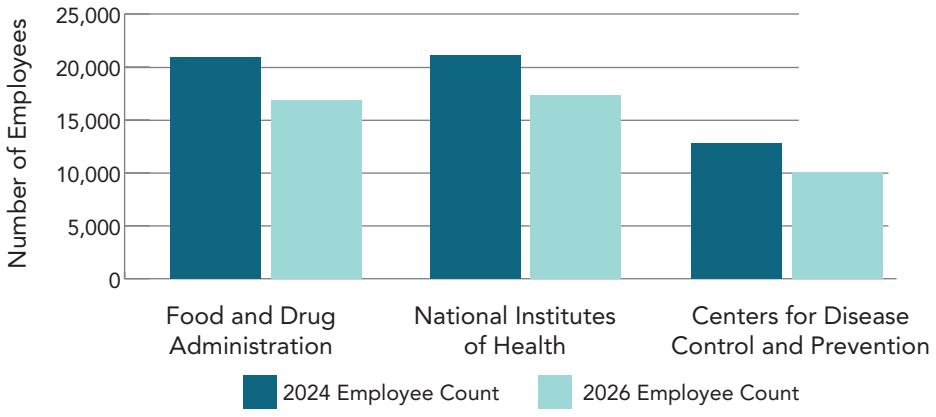
One year after H.R. 1 led to the largest-ever restructuring of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), more than 5 million fewer Americans are less able to meet their basic food needs, including over 1.5 million children losing benefits. And unless this funding is restored, these numbers will continue to climb. Plus, when families lose SNAP benefits, it can also trigger the loss of automatic enrollment in the free school meals program for children. CSPI is playing a leading role in advocacy efforts to fully reinstate SNAP funding.

While the Administration says it wants to "Make America Healthy Again," its actual policies and budget cuts are devastating the federal public health infrastructure. This summer's high profile cyclosporiasis outbreak, while not caused by federal budget cuts, highlighted the urgent need to restore federal resources to monitor, investigate, and prevent outbreaks and foodborne illnesses. Yet the CDC's surveillance program, FoodNet, was scaled back in July, reducing its surveillance from eight pathogens to only two, with cyclospora among the pathogens eliminated.

Similarly, the New World screwworm, previously confined to South America, is now causing infections in Texas and New Mexico. Cuts to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which lost more than 20% of its workforce, have stymied the program's efforts to effectively monitor and curtail infections like this. The chart below shows how drastically the Administration has cut staffing at critical public health agencies. CSPI and our partners, including the National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity and the Safe Food Coalition, are urging Congress to increase health and food safety funding this year.

AT CSPI, OUR JOB IS PUBLIC HEALTH AND IT'S NEVER BEEN TOUGHER. With you as our Partner, we are in the trenches fighting back against these dangerous policies every day. Our dedicated staff is working tirelessly and putting in long hours to keep up with the onslaught of attacks. Thank you for your generosity, which enables us to remain vigilant, defend science, and advance the health and safety of all Americans.

Federal workforce reductions



Source: Office of Personnel Management

The federal workforce has shrunk by 10% since the beginning of Trump's second term, with a decrease of approximately 17% at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Data for 2026 is as of Jan. 8, so there has likely been further decline. Data for 2024 reflects the employee count as of the end of September of that year.

Fighting for you: Your donations in action

WINNING IN THE STATES: HEALTHIER FOOD MEASURES

With progress on health and nutrition efforts slowed at the Federal level, CSPI is notching big wins at the state level. Here are just a few of the ways we are protecting American consumers through state advocacy:

FIVE BILLS AWAIT THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE IN NEW YORK: Lawmakers in New York state have passed a set of bills that would help the state emerge as a leader on food chemical safety, labeling, and more. The Food Safety and Chemical Disclosure Act would ban three unsafe additives and require disclosure of safety data for chemicals added to foods sold in the state. Also passed this year are bills requiring sodium warning icons at chain restaurants and mandating testing of baby food and infant formula for arsenic and other toxic heavy metals.

Photo: Adaku Nwokiwu- Pythia Public.



Supporters of the Good Food New York bill in New York City.

In addition, the Good Food New York bill would allow municipalities to prioritize healthy, locally sourced food in their procurement process rather than always taking the lowest bid. And the Food Date Labeling Reform Act will establish uniform food date labels that clearly distinguish food safety from food quality, reducing consumer confusion, cutting food waste, and encouraging the donation of safe, edible food. If you live in New York, please contact Governor Hochul and ask her to sign this precedent-setting food reform package.

Tell Governor Hochul to sign the Food Safety and Chemical Disclosure Act cspi.org/signfoodsafetyact

CSPI STUDY: HUNGER AND HEALTH RISKS IN CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM: In May of this year, CSPI and the Carceral Nutrition Project released a report showing that privatized food service in U.S. prisons raises serious concerns about nutrition, food safety, and oversight. The private company, Aramark, controls 35% of the U.S. correctional food services market. Our report, Private Food, Public Harm: Privatized Food Service in Prisons and Jails, found that insufficient portions and unpalatable meals contribute to hunger and that food safety lapses are widespread. CSPI is calling on policymakers and correctional agencies to establish evidence-based nutrition-standards for prison and jail meals and to strengthen oversight of private vendors.

PROTECTING INFANT HEALTH: Infants are a uniquely vulnerable population and programs to protect infant health should never be on the chopping block. Following the late 2025 outbreak of Clostridium botulinum infections linked to ByHeart infant formula, CSPI and the Safe Food Coalition jumped into action. We called on the Food and Drug Administration to strengthen the inspection and regulation of infant formula and to address the alarming 40% vacancy rate for FDA inspectors. This spring, the FDA responded to our recommendations by issuing updated guidance to infant formula manufacturers for enhanced testing of their products.

Photo: Felix/peopleimages.com - stock.adobe.com.



MY WHOLE LIFE—WHAT I DO AND WHAT I EAT—HAS BEEN BASED ON WHAT I READ IN NUTRITION ACTION. *—Bettie Goosman*

Making CSPI Part of the Family

BETTIE GOOSMAN

Dietician and Long-time CSPI Supporter

As a lifelong dietitian, good nutrition is important to me. I'm retired, but continue to preach healthful eating.

I was introduced to CSPI through Nutrition Action by someone at a health food store decades ago and have kept every single issue. I appreciate that CSPI advises readers about products that are good and what you should avoid. I can trust that the information provided is the truth. CSPI follows the science and goes in-depth, countering misinformation and confusion. In each issue there is something new that I learn!



I especially liked Bonnie Liebman, who retired last year as CSPI's Senior Director of Nutrition. The writers of Nutrition Action are such a part of my life and I find myself consistently putting their recommendations into practice. I am grateful for their expertise.

I was born in South Africa and contracted tuberculosis working in medical research, which led to 18 months of treatment. I then got an invitation to come to the USA in 1973 to do research and met my husband. We married 2 years later and settled in Livermore, California. During my recovery I started teaching myself painting. My life changed and painting became my second career. I have always thanked God for having led me to painting. Looking at a completed painting fills me with peace and tranquility.

We have no children and I have no siblings. When I was drafting my will it was clear to me that CSPI should be in it. I would trust them to use whatever I leave to them to guide others to improve their health and well being.

CSPI is deeply grateful to Bettie for her longtime support of our work and her decision to make CSPI part of her lasting legacy with a gift through her estate. Keep preaching good nutrition Bettie!

Photo: Courtesy of Bettie Goosman.

"Upending the work of experienced scientists by employing filters to flag research that mentions terms like 'gender' or 'minorities' is no way to evaluate research on HIV, addiction, climate change, misinformation, or other important public health issues," said Lisa Mankofsky, senior litigation director at CSPI.

CSPI has joined the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Northern California, Protect Democracy,, and Jacobson Lawyers Group to represent the plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit which seeks to stop censorship and termination of federally funded scientific research.

Tax Wise Ways to Support CSPI this Giving Season

Donate from your IRA

If you are over the age of 70 ½, you can transfer up to $111,000 annually to CSPI directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and pay no taxes on the amount. If you are age 73 or older, your gift also counts toward your required minimum distribution (RMD). Often referred to as a Qualified Charitable Distriution (QCD), this is a tax-smart way to make your philanthropic gifts stretch even further.

Your DAF only works if you use it

If you have a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF), please consider making a grant to CSPI. Or set up a recurring monthly or quarterly grant to sustain support for science all year long. It's a great way to advance public health with dollars that have already been set aside for charitable causes.

Make a Gift of Stock

Advisors agree that donating stock, mutual funds, or other appreciated securities is one of the best ways to support the causes you care about and enjoy significant tax savings. You may earn a charitable tax deduction and reduce your capital gains taxes.

TO GET STARTED WITH ANY OF THESE GIFTS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT CSPI.ORG/TAXSMART OR SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.

OR CONTACT TOM SCHLOEGEL AT TSCHLOEGEL@CSPI.ORG OR (202) 777-8372.

We are here to help

CSPI is deeply grateful for the financial support of all our donors. We have two programs designated to recognize our most generous contributors:

- **PARTNERS FOR NUTRITION ACTION** is a dedicated group of donors who make a significant annual commitment to supporting nutrition and food safety.
- **BENEFACTORS FOR NUTRITION ACTION** is a special group of individuals who have chosen to leave a gift in their will, trust, or by beneficiary designation.

For more information on becoming a **PARTNER** or **BENEFACTOR**, please contact Tom Schloegel at tschloegel@cspi.org or (202) 777-8372. Thank you.



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

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