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The Honorable Tim Burchett

U.S. House of Representatives

114 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Burchett,

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Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am writing to urge you to support the Healthy Food Access for All Americans Act [H.R. 7762] introduced by Representative Emilia Strong Sykes [D-VA-4], which focuses on expanding access to nutritious food in underserved communities both locally and across the country. As a resident of Knoxville, TN, I believe this bill will have significant positive impacts on public health, the local economy, and particularly in communities like ours that face challenges related to food insecurity and limited access to healthy food options. This bill would implement targeted measures to utilize grants to support grocery stores and other local food resources in food deserts, funding for community-based food systems, and expanded nutrition education for those who need it most. These initiatives would help address long-standing disparities regarding food access in underserved areas. By supporting the development of farmers' markets, food cooperatives, and local grocery stores, this bill ensures that residents can purchase affordable, nutritious food close to home, reducing dependence on less healthy, highly processed options.

This bill would aim to expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other resourceful food assistance initiatives. It would provide a vital lifeline to families in need while promoting better nutritional choices. Increased SNAP benefits would enable families to make healthier food purchases, improving their overall well-being and reducing diet-related health conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease, which disproportionately affect low-income communities. As a graduate student and aspiring professional in the health and wellness sector, I believe this bill aligns with our shared goals of improving public health, reducing healthcare costs, and creating sustainable, community-driven food systems. By supporting H.R. 7762, you will be helping to create a healthier, more equitable environment for all residents of Knoxville, TN. I respectfully ask that you support the passage of the Healthy Food Access for All Americans Act and advocate for its swift approval in both the House and Senate.

Our communities are counting on you to take action that will make an extraordinary difference in addressing food insecurity in our local communities and improving nutrition nationwide. Thank you for lending me your attention to an issue I passionately believe in. I look forward to your hopeful support of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Rikki McDonald

President of Undergraduate Nutrition Student Association

Graduate Student with a Concentration in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics

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