**2023 Farm Bill Priority – Dietary Reference Intakes**

As organizations committed to science, science based dietary guidelines, and food and nutrition security, the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) and the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) urge you to invest in ongoing updates to the Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs).

DRIs are the standard for nutrient recommendations, and are essential to nutrition policy, functioning as the scientific backbone to the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and federal feeding programs. DRIs are a set of quantitative nutrient reference values used to plan and assess nutrient intakes of a country’s population.

Funding for DRI development and reviews are provided by several federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Although DRIs are foundational to the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*, the Nutrition Facts Label, and other federal nutrition policies and programs, there is no dedicated funding stream or statutory requirement for updating DRIs. For decades, there have only been a few DRI updates, and this has been dependent on sporadically available funding support provided by Congress to federal agencies. Today, many nutrient DRIs are outdated or have yet to be developed.

ASN and IFT recommend that Congress provide USDA with mandatory funding to support a regular schedule of DRI development and updates, carried out by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM). A dedicated funding level of $10 million would support the development of several DRI reviews for 2024-2029.

Funding foundational science in food and nutrition, like DRI development, is essential to ensuring accurate dietary recommendations and related federal, state and local food & nutrition programs, to meet the needs of Americans.

American Society for Nutrition

Institute of Food Technologists