

Stop Foodborne Illness

January 31, 2023

Statement from Mitzi D. Baum Chief Executive Officer Stop Foodborne Illness

This morning, FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf released the FDA's vision to modernize and elevate its human foods program. In the proposed restructuring, the commissioner embraces some recommendations from the Reagan-Udall report with the announcement of instituting an empowered deputy commissioner of the human foods program reporting directly to him.

We anticipate the new structure will facilitate accelerating decision making, create seamless communication within a still fragmented agency, and forge consequential cultural changes – all of which have been plaguing the human foods program.

Many details have yet to be determined as we await the announcements of who will be charged with instituting these monumental changes, how the human foods program will be unified as parts of ORA and the entirety of CVM remain unchanged, how they will be accomplished, and the timeline in which they will be implemented and executed.

The FDA must continue to pursue its public health mission that includes ensuring all consumers are protected from foodborne illness. It can be achieved by creating a strong, consistent food safety culture - across *all* elements of the human foods program - with a modernized approach.