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February 3, 2022

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller General  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provides state administrative expense (SAE) funds to state agencies to support the administration of five federal child nutrition programs for schools and institutions: the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Food Distribution Program. State agencies can use these funds for expenses such as staff salaries, information technology, and technical assistance. Over \$300 million in SAE funds were obligated in fiscal year 2020.

To better understand how states utilize these funds, we request the Government Accountability Office conduct a study that examines the following topics:

- How have state agencies used SAE funds?
- What innovative and effective policies, practices, or professional development methods (such as efforts to promote scratch cooking) have states financed with SAE funds? Please include an examination of how these uses and programs may differ in rural, urban, and suburban areas.
- What factors can interfere with the ability of state agencies to use SAE funds effectively?
- How are SAE funds used to support school nutrition workforce professional development? Do projects exist which focus on education about and the implementation of nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools? If so, are there particular elements of those programs that demonstrate greater success?

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro

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Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions and for periodic updates, please contact Alison Hard ([alison.hard@mail.house.gov](mailto:alison.hard@mail.house.gov)) with Chairman Scott's staff and Mandy Schaumburg ([mandy.schaumburg@mail.house.gov](mailto:mandy.schaumburg@mail.house.gov)) with Ranking Member Foxx's staff. Please direct all official correspondence to the Committee's Chief Clerk, Rasheedah Hasan, at [rasheedah.hasan@mail.house.gov](mailto:rasheedah.hasan@mail.house.gov) and to Mandy Schaumburg.

Sincerely,



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**ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**  
Chairman



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**VIRGINIA FOXX**  
Ranking Member