

# Join the Food Safety Caucus

Sending Office: Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro

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**Members (15):** Alma Adams, André Carson, Sharice Davids, Diana DeGette, Marcy Kaptur, Barbara Lee, Erica Lee Carter, Jim McGovern, Grace Meng, Seth Moulton, Donald Norcross, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chellie Pingree, Jan Schakowsky, Hillary Scholten

Dear Colleague,

I invite you to become a member of the Congressional Food Safety Caucus.

With more than 48 million illnesses, 128,000 hospitalizations, and 3,000 deaths from foodborne disease each year, food safety is critical for the health and well-being of American families.

The safety and quality of food involves 16 different federal agencies. For example, one agency regulates frozen cheese pizzas, another agency regulates frozen pizzas with meat, and additional agencies regulate components of both. The FDA regulates approximately 80 percent of our food supply, and consumers and industry depend on the FDA Human Foods Program to perform its regulatory role effectively. Foodborne illness is a common and costly, yet largely preventative public health problem.

As the recent deadly *Listeria* outbreak linked to deli meats from a Boar's Head Facility in Jarratt, Virginia has again reminded us, our country has a long way to go in terms of being proactive and responsive to food safety concerns and disease outbreaks. In the largest listeriosis outbreak since 2011, 19 states have been affected, 59 persons hospitalized, and ten have died.

*The Food Safety Caucus will:*

- Engage food safety experts and industry stakeholders on needed reforms to enhance food safety in the United States.
- Fight to ensure food safety agencies have the resources and authorities needed to make sure that foods are safe for consumers.
- Advocate for streamlining our food safety system.
- Work on legislation to reform, improve, strengthen food safety across all aspects of our nation's food system.

If you would like to join the Food Safety Caucus, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Rosa L. DeLauro

*Chair of the Food Safety Caucus*