April 16, 2018

The Honorable Mike Conaway
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
U. S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture
U. S. House of Representatives
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Peterson:

On behalf of APLU’s Board on Human Sciences (BoHS), we are writing to express our support for the research, education, and teaching provisions contained within the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (H. R. 2). We also support the expeditious consideration of this legislation by the House Committee on Agriculture and the full U. S. House of Representatives.

The BoHS membership supports the expanded role that H. R. 2 provides for Cooperative Extension at our institutions in the delivery of nutrition education through the SNAP-Ed program. Our members also appreciate the Committee’s efforts to reauthorize the important research, Extension, and teaching programs in Title VII of the bill and to continue funding those programs which did not have a funding baseline beyond Fiscal Year 2018. The goal of nutrition education is to promote changes in behavior that allow the targeted populations to exercise more control over their diets and their health outcomes. In other words, as a university system, we aim to: reduce preventable chronic diseases that pose a critical burden upon our health care system; teach vulnerable populations how to best use their food dollars so they can eat better; avoid hunger; and, eventually become self-sufficient. This bill brings to fruition the long-term goal of unifying nutrition education and allowing our nation’s public higher education system to be in the forefront of its implementation and evaluation.

Like our colleagues in APLU’s Board on Agriculture Assembly, we certainly appreciate the ability to work with your staff in the development of this important legislative proposal and look forward to continuing this collaboration as the legislative process moves forward.

The Board on Human Sciences (BoHS) is an association of administrators of higher education units responsible for research/discovery, extension/outreach, and teaching/learning programs in
the human sciences at universities across the country within the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). Our members are committed to a national agenda that unifies disciplines within and beyond the human sciences to enrich people’s lives.

Please do not hesitate to contact the BoHS Executive Director, Eddie G. Gouge, at (202) 478-6028 or egouge@aplu.org if and when our group can be of any assistance in securing passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John B. Buckwalter
Chair
Board on Human Sciences

JBB/eg