**Medical Nutrition Equity Act** (S.2013/H.R. 3783) **Letter Template to Congress**

To: [email address of your [**Senate**](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm) or [**House**](https://www.house.gov/representatives) member]

Subject: Request for Your Support of the Medical Nutrition Equity Act of 2021 [Insert either H.R 3783 or S.2013, as appropriate]

Dear Honorable [Insert Legislator’s Full Name]

My name is [Insert Your Name] and I am a [Insert Your Credentials and Practice Area]. As your constituent, I am writing today to urge you to support the Medical Nutrition Equity Act [Insert either H.R 3108 or S.1536, as appropriate] introduced in the 117th Congress in June 2021. The bill seeks to expand coverage under Medicare, Medicaid and other federal health care programs and private health insurance to include foods, vitamins, and individual amino acids that are medically necessary for the management of certain digestive and metabolic disorders and conditions.

Many children and adults in our country live with digestive or inherited metabolic disorders that interfere with their body’s ability to digest and metabolize grocery store or regular foods. These foods, if ingested by individuals with digestive or metabolic disorders result in poor tolerance, exacerbation of disease symptoms and/or complications. Medically necessary foods are specifically designed for nutritional treatment of the disorder and are the standard-of-care therapy for these patients. Without medically necessary nutrition these patients are at risk for organ damage, unnecessary surgery, potential dehydration, repeated hospitalizations and/or emergency room visits, intellectual disability or even death. Patients may suffer from acute or chronic starvation leading to malnutrition, individual nutrient deficiencies, poor response to disease management and higher frequency of expensive healthcare utilization. In addition to the aforementioned risks, when pediatric patients do not receive medically necessary nutritional treatment this may result in inadequate growth, abnormal development, cognitive impairment, and behavioral disorders.

In December 2016, Congress passed legislation that improved coverage for medical nutrition for military families enrolled in TRICARE. Some states have passed laws with some level of protection for families but there continues to be significant gaps in coverage. Medically necessary nutrition typically must be ordered through a pharmacy and may costs 4-5 times as much as ‘regular’ food. The expense is too great of a burden for most families to handle especially in today’s environment, combining influences of systemic inequalities, food insecurity and reduced access to care.

[Briefly explain your own concerns and story about MNT and the MNT Act if applicable]

The Medical Nutrition Equity Act provides a cost-effective lifeline to Americans with rare digestive and metabolic diseases.

Please sign on and show your support for equitable access to medically necessary nutrition in the United States by co-sponsoring the Medical Nutrition Equity Act!

Thank you for your time, consideration and support.

Sincerely,

[sign name and include phone number and email address]