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April 12, 2022

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Robert Califf
Commissioner
U.S. Food & Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Commissioner Califf:

I write regarding the shortage in the availability of baby formula.

As you know, millions of American families are finding it hard to find baby formula on store shelves. For parents of infants who need specialized formula, this shortage is particularly unnerving since they cannot easily switch formula brands. Many factors, including inadequate staffing and supply chain disruptions for key ingredients, have contributed to this shortage, and the recent recalls of certain Abbott Nutrition powdered formula products due to possible *Cronobacter sakazakii* contamination have made the situation worse. In fact, recent reports indicate that nearly 30 percent of national baby formula inventory was out of stock in March.

To better understand how your agencies are addressing the ingredient shortages and manufacturing constraints that are contributing to this nationwide shortage, I respectfully request that you respond to the following questions by no later than April 29, 2022:

1. What steps have your agencies taken to minimize the impact of the immediate shortage?
2. When do your agencies expect baby formula inventory to be back to sufficient levels?
3. What measures should be taken in the long term to minimize the supply chain disruptions for what is an essential product for many families?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator