

February 23, 2017

Statement in opposition to the “Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2017”

We, the undersigned organizations oppose the “Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2017” (S.261/HR.772). We do not think that it is common sense to weaken a policy that would allow people to make their own, informed choices about how many calories to eat at a time when obesity rates are at a record high. The bill would undercut the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) menu labeling regulations and undermine congressional intent to provide access to calorie labeling in a broad range of chain food service establishments.

The national menu labeling law requires chain restaurants and similar food establishments to provide consumers with calorie information for standard food and beverage items on menus and menu boards. Studies show that providing nutrition information at restaurants can help people make lower calorie choices, and a national poll found that 80 percent of Americans support calorie labeling at chain supermarkets and restaurants. The bill would undermine the benefits of the national menu labeling law and confuse and mislead consumers.

Pizza chains and other establishments that offer delivery service should post calories on their menu boards just like other chain restaurants, as Congress intended. While some consumers use online menus, others use paper menus at home or menus and menu boards in a restaurant. All menus should list calorie so consumers can see the information when and where they are deciding what to order. Also, pizza chains need only post calories for the standard menu items they list on their menu boards — not every possible pizza combination — just as delis, ice cream shops, burrito stands, and other chains with variable menu items will do. Pizza chains in Vermont, California, Seattle, and other states/municipalities are already posting calorie information on menus—demonstrating it can be done in a reasonable space and at a reasonable cost.

It is important for calories to be listed on a menu in a standard format as an item is offered for sale. Without standardization, people will have more difficulty understanding and using the nutrition information for menu items. Posting the total calories per menu item enables consumers to more easily compare different types of food items, such as nachos, chicken wings, or pizza, and leaves it up to the individual — not the restaurant — to determine how many people will share the item. It would be deceptive to label muffins, entrees, desserts, and most menu items as multiple servings, since items are most often consumed by one person.

The national menu labeling law was a bipartisan compromise supported by public health organizations and the restaurant industry, and it built on the momentum of more than 20 state and local policies. The bill undermines the consensus and compromise worked out between a wide diversity of interests to pass the national menu labeling law. The

bill would weaken an important tool intended to help Americans make informed food choices at a time when obesity and other nutrition-related health problems are at crisis levels, adding significant fiscal and public health burdens on the American public, businesses, and federal, state, and local budgets.

We ask you to support consumer choice and American's health and join us in opposing the Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2017 (S.261/HR.772).

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics	Berkeley Media Studies Group
Advocates for Better Children's Diets	Boston Public Health Commission
American Academy of Sports Dietitians and Nutritionists	California Center for Public Health Advocacy
American Association for Health Education	Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network	Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund
American Council on Exercise	Center for Behavioral Epidemiology and Community Health (CA)
American Diabetes Association	Center for Communications, Health & the Environment
American Heart Association	Center for Science in the Public Interest
American Institute for Cancer Research	ChangeLab Solutions
American Nurses Association	Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (WA)
American Public Health Association	Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children, a program of Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
American School Health Association	
American Society of Bariatric Physicians	
Arizona in ACTION	Consumers Union
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials	Corporate Accountability International
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists	City University of New York (CUNY) School of Public Health at Hunter College, Program in Nutrition
B. Complete	Day One (CA)

Defeat Diabetes Foundation	National Physicians Alliance
D'fine Sculpting & Nutrition LLC Directors of Health Promotion and Education	National WIC Association
Earth Day Network	Nemours Children's Health System
Eat Drink Politics	New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Eat Smart, Move More South Carolina	New York State Department of Health
Ehrens Consulting (ND)	Nutrition First (WA)
Energy Up!	Ohio Public Health Association
Food Policy Action	Oral Health America
Food Sleuth, LLC	Oregon Public Health Institute
Illinois Public Health Institute	Parents Educators & Advocates Connection for Healthy School Food (CA)
Integrated Medical Weight Loss (RI)	Piedmont Dialysis Center (NC)
Iowa Public Health Association	Project Bread- The Walk for Hunger
Jump IN for Healthy Kids (IN)	Public Health Advocacy Institute
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Teachers College, Columbia University	Public Health Institute
LiveWell Colorado	Real Food For Kids
Louisiana Public Health Institute	Real Food For Kids – Montgomery (MD)
MomsRising.org	Recipe for Success Foundation
National Action Against Obesity	School Based Health Alliance of Arkansas
National Association of County and City Health Officials	Shape Up America!
National Congress of Black Women	Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
National Consumers League	SuperKids Nutrition
	Trust for America's Health

University of Arkansas for Medical
Sciences, Fay W. Boozman College of
Public Health
Voices for America's Children

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center (NC)
Young People's Healthy Heart Program
(ND)

Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!)

David Baron, MEd, DO, DFAPA
Assistant Dean, International Relations,
Keck School of Medicine
Professor and Vice Chair, Department of
Psychiatry
Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Keck Medical Center
Director, Global Center for Exercise,
Psychiatry and Sports
University of Southern California

Janet Bond Brill, PhD, RD, CSSD
Nutrition/Health/Fitness Expert, Award-
Winning Author, Consultant

David V.B. Britt
Retired CEO, Sesame Workshop

Greta Bunin, PhD
Research Associate Professor, Pediatrics
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Center
for Childhood Cancer Research
University of Pennsylvania School of
Medicine, Department of Pediatrics

Carlos A. Camargo, Jr., MD, DrPH
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical
School
Member, 2005 US Dietary Guidelines
Advisory Committee

Sonja L. Connor, MS, RD, LD
Research Associate Professor
Endocrinology, Diabetes & Clinical
Nutrition
Oregon Health & Science University

Isobel R. Contento, PhD
Mary Swartz Rose Professor of Nutrition
and Education, and Coordinator, Program
in Nutrition
Department of Health and Behavior
Studies
Teachers College, Columbia University

Mary Ann Dowdell, PhD, RD, CDN
Undergraduate Dietetics Program Director
State University of New York
College at Oneonta

Kim M. Gans, PhD, MPH, LDN
Professor, Department of Behavioral and
Social Sciences
Director, Institute for Community Health
Promotion
Brown University

Christopher Gardner, PhD
Associate Professor of Medicine
(Research)
Stanford Prevention Research Center

Edward Giovannucci, MD, ScD
Professor of Nutrition and Professor of
Epidemiology, Harvard School of Public
Health
Associate Professor of Medicine
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Harvard Medical School

Frank B. Hu, MD, PhD
Professor of Nutrition and Epidemiology
Harvard School of Public Health
Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School

Marvin E. Goldberg, PhD
Research Associate, University of Arizona
Emeritus Bard Professor of Marketing
Penn State University

Wahida Karmally, DrPH, RD, CDE, CLS,
FNLA

Associate Research Scientist
Lecturer in Dentistry
Director of Nutrition
Irving Institute for Clinical and
Translational Research
Columbia University

David F. Keely, MD
Primary Care Medicine & Public Health
Synergy

Pamela Koch, EdD, RD
Executive Director, Center for Food &
Environment
Teachers College, Columbia University

Thomas E. Kottke, MD, MSPH
Medical Director for Evidence-Based
Health
HealthPartners

James Krieger, MD, MPH
Clinical Professor of Medicine and Health
Services
University of Washington
Robert Lustig, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
Division of Endocrinology
University of California, San Francisco

A. Rees Midgley, MD
Professor Emeritus
Department of Pathology
University of Michigan
President, inDepthLearning

Nancy Milio, RN, PhD
Professor Emeritus of Public Health
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Matthew O'Brien, MD, MSc
Assistant Professor of Medicine and
Public Health
Temple University Center for Obesity
Research and Education

Barry M. Popkin, PhD
W. R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor
School of Public Health
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

John D. Potter, MD, PhD
Member and Senior Advisor
Division of Public Health Sciences
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Professor of Epidemiology
University of Washington

Jim Raczynski, PhD, FAHA
Professor and Founding Dean
Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health
University of Arkansas for Medical
Sciences

Debra B. Reed, PhD, RD, LD
Community Nutrition Research

Bill Reger-Nash, EdD
Professor Emeritus
School of Public Health
West Virginia University
Susan B. Roberts, PhD
Professor of Nutrition
Professor of Psychiatry
Tufts University

Frank M. Sacks, MD
Professor of Cardiovascular Disease
Prevention
Nutrition Department, Harvard School of
Public Health
Professor of Medicine, Channing Division
of Network Medicine, Harvard Medical
School, and Brigham & Women's Hospital

Mary Segal, PhD
Research Scientist
Center for Obesity Research and
Education
Temple University School of Medicine

Patricia K. Smith, PhD
Professor of Economics
University of Michigan-Dearborn

Alfred Sommer, MD, MHS
Professor, Johns Hopkins Schools of
Medicine and Public Health
Member, National Academy of Science
and the Institute of Medicine

Mary Story, PhD, RD
Professor, Community and Family
Medicine and Global Health
Associate Director for Academic Programs
Duke University

Vic Strasburger, MD
Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics
University of New Mexico School of
Medicine

David M. Weiss, PhD
Professor Emeritus
The MHA Program
Health Professions & Kinesiology
Department
School of Education, Health & Human
Services
Hofstra University

J. Gary Wheeler, MD
Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics, Division of
Infectious Diseases
Department of Pediatrics
University of Arkansas for Medical
Sciences

Walter C. Willett, MD, DrPH
Professor and Chair
Department of Nutrition
Harvard School of Public Health

Lisa R. Young, PhD, RD
Adjunct Professor of Nutrition
New York University