

Joint statement in opposition to H.R. 2017 “Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2015”

We, the undersigned organizations and researchers, oppose the “Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2015.” 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 supermarkets and restaurants. H.R. 2017 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. H.R. 2017 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 H.R. 2017.

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

Eat Smart, Move More South Carolina

Ehrens Consulting (ND)

Energy Up!

Food Policy Action

Food Sleuth, LLC

Illinois Public Health Institute

Integrated Medical Weight Loss (RI)

Iowa Public Health Association

Jump IN for Healthy Kids (IN)

Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food,
Education & Policy, Teachers College,
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LiveWell Colorado

Louisiana Public Health Institute

MomsRising.org

National Action Against Obesity

National Association of County and City
Health Officials

National Center for Health Research

National Congress of Black Women

National Consumers League

National Physicians Alliance

National WIC Association

Nemours Children's Health System

New York City Department of Health and
Mental Hygiene

Nutrition First (WA)

Ohio Public Health Association

Oral Health America

Oregon Public Health Institute

Parents Educators & Advocates
Connection for Healthy School Food (CA)

Piedmont Dialysis Center (NC)

Project Bread- The Walk for Hunger

Public Health Advocacy Institute

Public Health Institute

Real Food For Kids – Montgomery (MD)

Recipe for Success Foundation
Shape Up America!

Society for Nutrition Education and
Behavior

SuperKids Nutrition

Trust for America's Health

University of Arkansas for Medical
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Voices for America's Children

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center (NC)

Young People's Healthy Heart Program
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Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!)

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