

## **Joint statement in opposition to H.R. 6174, “Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2012”**

We, the undersigned organizations and researchers, oppose the “Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2012.” 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) proposed 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 recent national poll found that 80 percent of Americans support calorie labeling at supermarkets and restaurants. H.R. 6174 would undermine the benefits of the national menu labeling law and confuse and mislead consumers.

**Supermarkets and convenience stores should not be exempt from calorie labeling.** Congress did not just require labeling in restaurants, but also at similar food service establishments that sell restaurant-type food (such as supermarkets, convenience stores, and superstores). People are increasingly picking up prepared dinners, salads, sandwiches, and bakery items at grocery or convenience stores, in place of take out at restaurants. Keeping them covered is fair to business and best for 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 this 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 almost 20 state and local policies. H.R. 6174 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. 6174.**

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics	Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Advocates for Better Children's Diets	
American Academy of Sports Dietitians and Nutritionists	Association of State & Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors
American Association for Health Education	Berkeley Media Studies Group
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network	Boston Public Health Commission
American Diabetes Association	California Center for Public Health Advocacy
American Heart Association	Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood
American Institute for Cancer Research	Center for Communications, Health & the Environment
American Nurses Association	Center for Science in the Public Interest
American Public Health Association	ChangeLab Solutions
American School Health Association	Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (WA)
American Society of Bariatric Physicians	Corporate Accountability International
Arizona in ACTION	

City University of New York (CUNY)  
School of Public Health at Hunter College,  
Program in Nutrition

Directors of Health Promotion and  
Education

Earth Day Network

Eat Drink Politics

Eat Smart, Move More South Carolina

Energy Up!

Food Sleuth, LLC

Illinois Public Health Institute

Integrated Medical Weight Loss (RI)

LiveWell Colorado

Louisiana Public Health Institute

National Action Against Obesity

National Association of County and City  
Health Officials

National Congress of Black Women

National Consumers League

National Physicians Alliance

National WIC Association

Nemours

New York State Department of Health

Nutrition First (WA)

Ohio Public Health Association

Oral Health America

Oregon Public Health Institute

Piedmont Dialysis Center (NC)

Project Bread- The Walk for Hunger

Public Health Advocacy Institute

Public Health Institute

Shape Up America!

Society for Nutrition Education and  
Behavior

Trust for America's Health

University of Arkansas for Medical  
Sciences, Fay W. Boozman College of  
Public Health

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center (NC)

Young People's Healthy Heart Program  
(ND)

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, Division of Epidemiology and  
Community Health  
Senior Associate Dean for Academic &  
Student Affairs  
School of Public Health  
University of Minnesota

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