Dec. 16, 1999

Donna Shalala, Sec. 1338 '00 JAN -3 A10:41
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am writing to express my concern about the possible weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food that is being considered by the Food + Drug Administration. I strongly believe that it is my right to know if the food I eat has been treated with radiation.

Food products undergo chemical changes after exposure to radioactive isotopes. These cosmetic and nutritional changes in foods warrant disclosure on a prominent place on the package. In addition, food that is not packaged should be accompanied by a poster in plain view of where it is displayed for sale. Labels are required by

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law to be truthful and not misleading to the customer. Only clear, honest and permanent labeling is acceptable for irradiated foods.

I hope that you will defend the consumer's right to know in this important decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Rev E. Connally
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113 RAINBOW DR.
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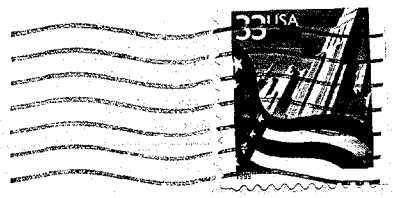

DONNA SHALALA, SEC.
U.S. DEPT. OF HEALTH AND
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