



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

DEC 28 1999 1587 '00 JAN -4 P154

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0529

Dear Mr. Waxman:

Thank you for your letter of November 23, 1999, addressed to Jane E. Henney, M.D., Commissioner of Food and Drugs, concerning the petition (Docket No. 99P-2630) recently submitted by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CPSI). This petition calls for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to establish a Daily Reference Value for "added sugars" in foods and require that the Nutrition Facts panel include the amount and percent Daily Value of added sugars in a serving. In addition, CSPI requested that FDA change related labeling regulations for nutrient content and health claims. Also, you urge FDA and its sister agencies, in the Public Health Service, to conduct a review of the health effects of refined sugars in the American diet.

FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) is reviewing the petition. As part of this review, CFSAN believes that it is appropriate to determine the extent of information available concerning the impact of ingestion of added sugars on the diet and public health. To this end, FDA will be publishing a notice of availability (NOA) concerning the petition and requesting the submission of information relative to added sugars in the diet. Once we have an opportunity to review the comments to the planned NOA, we shall consider the next steps in our evaluation of the petition and whether it should be added to CFSAN's priorities for the year 2000.

Thank you for your leadership in food safety and nutrition. We appreciate your comments and will send a copy of your

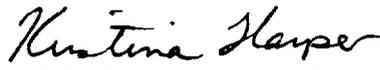
99P-2630

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letter to Dockets Management Branch to become part of the official record for this citizen petition.

Sincerely,


Melinda K. Plaisier
Associate Commissioner
for Legislation

cc: Dockets Management Branch
(Docket #99P-2630)

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0529

HENRY A. WAXMAN
29TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

November 23, 1999

Commissioner Jane Henney, M.D.
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I am writing in strong support of the petition calling for content disclosure and a Daily Reference value for added sugar (Docket No. 99P-2630), which was recently submitted by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI). I also urge the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and its sister agencies of the Public Health Service to conduct a review of the health effects of refined sugars in the American diet.

The consumption of added sugars has surged since the FDA last examined the question of labeling for added sugar content. Per capita consumption of added sugars has increased by more than a quarter since 1983, and calories from added sugars now constitute 16 percent of the American diet. Perhaps most disturbing, the typical American teenager now obtains a fifth of all of his or her calories from the sugar added to soft drinks, snack foods and other processed foods.

At the same time, our knowledge of the health risks of added sugar consumption is increasing. Added sugars are a contributing factor to the growing prevalence of obesity and heart disease in America. They also crowd out essential nutrients from daily consumption, making it even more difficult for the average consumer to eat a healthy, balanced diet; according to a study conducted by the National Cancer Institute and published in *Pediatrics*, only 2 percent of American children and teens currently meet all five federal recommendations for a healthy diet.

There is widespread support among leading health professionals, scientists and consumer advocates for greater disclosure of the added sugar content of foods and beverages. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) "Food Guide Pyramid" recommends limiting daily intake of added sugars to 10 teaspoons in a 2,000 calorie diet. As the American Public Health

No. 99-7201

Letter to FDA Commissioner Jane Henney, M.D.

November 23, 1999

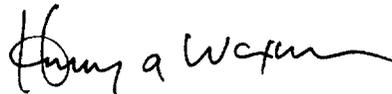
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Association, the Consumer Federation of America and dozens of leading nutrition scientists and other health advocacy organizations have already urged, I strongly encourage the FDA to accept the USDA's recommendation as the basis for a Daily Value for added sugars.

As one of the authors of the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990 (NLEA), I applaud the FDA's long-standing efforts to implement NLEA and to promote consumer awareness of their diet and nutrition. I believe that disclosure of added sugar content will fill an important gap in dietary information and increase public awareness of their intake of added sugars, leading to healthier dietary choices.

I urge the FDA to give serious consideration and ultimate approval to the petition. Requiring added sugar content labeling, setting an added sugar Daily Value, and investigating "healthy" sugar content claims would be important steps towards improving the public's health and ability to make informed choices about their diets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry A. Waxman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Henry A. Waxman
MEMBER OF CONGRESS