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SOUTH END COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

400 SHAWMUT AVENUE • BOSTON, MA 02118 • TELEPHONE (617) 425-2000 • FAX (617) 425-2080

October 18, 1999 10:01 AM

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

Dear Dr. Henney:

As a health professional concerned about the public's health, I urge you to study and approve a petition concerning sugar labeling that was submitted to the FDA in August. That petition calls on the FDA to establish a "Daily Value" for refined/added sugars. The petition then asks that the FDA require the amount (in grams) of added sugars be declared on food labels and also expressed as a percentage of the Daily Value.

I am concerned about the impact of diets high in refined sugars on health. While most past attention has focused on tooth decay, a much more important consideration is that sugary foods may squeeze out healthier foods from the diet. I consult with many people with Diabetes and appropriate labeling would greatly help me teach them good product choices.

Better labeling would help consumers recognize just how much added sugars are in processed foods. Currently, it is impossible to determine the added-sugars content in foods such as flavored yogurt and ice cream, which contain both natural and added sugars.

Quick approval of the sugars-labeling petition would make it easier for me and other health care professionals to help consumers trying to eat well.

Sincerely,


Lela Silverstein
Clinic Nutritionist

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FDA
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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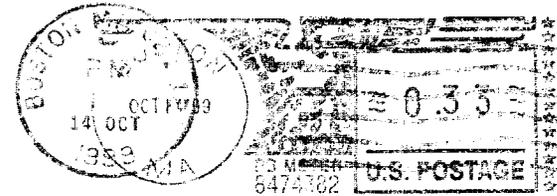
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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02118

NUTRITION



Dore Henney M.D., Commissioner
U.S. Food + Drug Administration
8600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857