

January 31, 2000

Donna Shalala, Secretary
U. S. dept. of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

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Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am very concerned about the weakening of label requirements for irradiated food that is being considered by the FDA. I am in the business of Child Care, and take great care to provide food that is grown as naturally as possible for good nutrition. The parents I do business with expect me to be careful about what I feed their children. We all have the right to know if our food has been irradiated.

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

We are counting on you to defend the consumer's right to know in this important decision-making process.

Sincerely,

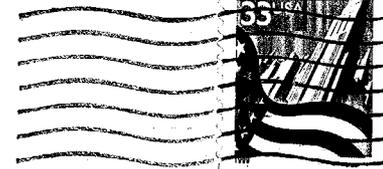
Dorothy H. Thomson
Dorothy Thomson
361 West Windsor
Lombard, IL 60148

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Dorothy Thomson
361 W. Windsor Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148



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