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April 4, 2004

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Lester M. Crawford, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane (HF-1/14-71/PKLN)
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Deputy Commissioner Crawford,

I urge you to develop a clear, consistent policy regarding the recall of foods with undeclared allergens, a policy that protects the millions of Americans who have food allergies.

I am an allergist, who treats many patients with potentially life threatening reactions to certain foods. These patients trust the FDA to look out for them and protect them against mislabeled foods and foods, which inadvertently had an allergen added, not listed among the ingredients. Many of my patients are small children whose parents live in constant fear that an undeclared item in their food will take their precious life. We all are aware that mistakes can be made but we must be assured that those items found to have food allergens not declared on the label be immediately identified and recalled.

It is crucial to my patients to have ingredient labels that are accurate, reliable, and trustworthy. Equally as crucial, however, is to have FDA, the federal body in charge of food safety, to take charge and recall food items with undeclared allergens.

I am sending a copy of this letter to The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN), to Senators Mc Cain and Kyl as well as Representative Kolbe.

Sincerely,



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