



Society for
Nutrition
Education

SNE Action Alert – MEAL Act

June 23, 2009

Dear SNE members –

Two bills have been filed in Congress which would provide nutrition information on chain restaurant menus and menu boards. They are the Menu Education and Labeling (MEAL) Act, sponsored by Senator Tom Harkin and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, (S.1048, H.R. 2426) and the Labeling Education and Nutrition (LEAN) Act, sponsored by Senator Tom Carper and Congressman Jim Matheson (S. 558, H.R. 1398). SNE has recently sent a letter to key leaders in support of the MEAL Act.

Please take a few moments to urge your Representative to support/co-sponsor H.R. 2426, and your Senators to support/co-sponsor S.1048.

Consumers need to know what they are eating in order to make healthier choices. Most people underestimate how many calories are in food items. Even professional nutritionists underestimate the calorie content of restaurant foods, because the foods are so surprisingly high in calories compared to foods prepared at home. Consumers support menu labeling. In New York City, where menu labeling has been in effect for almost one year, consumers are in favor of it and a vast majority uses this information to help them make better choices

To view the bill language and see if your Representative has co-sponsored it, please go to <http://www.thomas.gov> and search for Bill Number HR 2426 and S 1048. If your Senators or Representative have already co-sponsored, please write a “thank you” note! If they have not, you can use the letter at the SNE website (http://www.sne.org/documents/MEAL_act_congressionalleaders.pdf) to urge them to support it! The letter is also attached for your information.

To find your legislator, go to www.senate.gov or www.house.gov. In all correspondence, please address it to "The Honorable _____" and use Dear Senator or Representative _____ in the salutation.

Please let us know if you take action! Thank you.

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