Heritage Middle School

Model Congress – 7th Grade

Committee of Agriculture Bill #HR 882

First Congress

First Session

March 24, 2016

Representatives Dukhan, Heiszer, Margolis, and Selvin introduce the following bill:

A Bill

To require all public schools (K-12) to strictly adhere to FDA guidelines for all food products that are sold to the students of the school.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Section 1: Nutritional guidelines are now being enforced to all public schools around the country. All FDA nutritional guidelines will now be enforced in all schools around the country and new regulations, nutritional facts and enforcements will be in place. Also, the regulation of processed foods, sugar, all fats, sodium, additives, preservatives, and cholesterol will be increased and enforced. It prohibits the sale of processed foods and prohibits foods and drinks with over 25 grams of sugar. Foods with more than 10 grams of fat, and 2 grams of saturated fat, should also be prohibited. Sodium should be limited to a level of 250 ml. In a day, most people should have anywhere between 25-38 grams of sugar according to the nutrition authority website. In order to preserve a healthy weight, sugar shall be limited. Cholesterol will be limited up to 50 ml per food. Sodium shall be limited to 300 ml per food. Artificial coloring, added sugar, added salt, and chemical preservatives, will be only used for meats. These new guidelines will be implemented into the FDA rules and regulation for food labels, diets, and schools. Low income school districts will receive extra government aide to supply healthy food. There may be a cost in the federal government $21 billion total, which includes food subsides, according to the department of agriculture. Although, per capita, medical spending is $2,741 higher for people with obesity than for normal weight individuals. Therefore, it will save *thousands* of dollars of health care costs for the average American. This bill’s goal is to limit the growth of obesity, because right now 33% of children are obese or overweight according to the Campaign to End Obesity. We can solve these issues by putting said restrictions on school lunches. When our bill is passed, it will solve the problem of obesity. The problem is that these unhealthy foods are causing childhood obesity. This bill will make sure that students will get healthier foods, therefore assisting their health. Every two months, there will be an inspection to insure that all of the products being sold to the students are following the FDA guidelines. According to a 2013 report from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), childhood obesity has more than doubled in children and quadrupled in adolescents in the past 30 years. This is a serious epidemic, and if left unresolved, can lead to obesity rates increasing even more. Also, in 2012, more than one-third of children and adolescents were overweight or obese. Therefore, school lunches are full of unhealthy fats, sugars, sodium, additives, and preservatives, which are the cause of all these issues.

Section 2: To require will be determined as the act of a permitted law. It is to fulfill a specific need or purpose. All public schools, kindergarten through high school, will closely follow the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) guidelines. Strictly adhere is to enforce and support the guidelines that have been placed on the schools. The schools must closely listen to the guidelines to prevent future consequences. All of the foods sold refer to what the school is selling to the students. There should not be any food being sold to the students of the school that breaks the guidelines, for it would be ignoring the law being placed. The students of the school are all of the children going to the school. The children that are buying lunch are the main focus of this bill, but all children coming into contact with this food should be taken into consideration.

Section 3: FDA guidelines are the requirements that the government places on the schools to prevent them from selling unhealthy foods to their students. The guidelines are the restrictions that must be followed in order for the school to receive full government funding. These guidelines will put limits on certain foods and nutritional factors.

Section 4: Exceptions include private/charter schools, snacks between meals, and that these guidelines only apply to school provided lunches. Since private/charter schools don’t directly receive government funding, they don’t apply to this law. It is suggested that they follow these guidelines as well, but they are not required to. Although children may buy lunch, they also bring snacks for before and after they eat lunch. The government is not permitted to limit said snacks between meals because they are not being bought from the school. Lastly, the adolescents attending the school who bring lunches don’t apply to this bill because they are bringing their own food. These children should take notice of the guidelines, but the government cannot force them to buy lunch from school every day.

Section 5: This law will be implemented by the Department of Health and Human Services will be the one implementing this bill with the FDA

Section 6: Funding will come from the Department of Agriculture.

Section 7: Individuals or companies that violate this law will receive less government funding every time they violate this law. As well as less government funding, the companies will receive a warning saying that if they continue to violate the guidelines, they will not be able to sell any product to the schools. If they receive three warnings, they will lose complete funding from the government. The schools will receive less federal funding each time they violate. 25% the first warning for 1 years, 65% the second warning for 2 years and the third warning the school receives no funding for 3 years.

Section 8: This law will take effect September 1st, 2017.