



April 27, 2009

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Ms. Nancy Huehnergath
New York State Healthy Eating
and Physical Activity Alliance

Dear Nancy:

The Public Health Association of New York City (PHANYC) is pleased to join the New York State Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Alliance in support of the passage of New York State Assembly's proposal to enact A.8506/ S.56656 Calorie Labeling.

Having enacted a similar measure for New York City, PHANYC wholeheartedly supports A.8506/ S.5665 Calorie Labeling. Since 1977, adult caloric intake has increased 200 calories per day. Recent research reports show that chain restaurants are an important and growing source of the types of food most often associated with increased caloric intake and obesity. Because people consume one-third of their daily calories away from home and because chain restaurants are the most popular destination for diners, it's important that calories be posted clearly and prominently at chain restaurants.

Studies have shown that providing easy-to-access calorie information at point of purchase affects the choices people make, causing them to consume 15% fewer calories. By providing calorie information prominently at New York State chain restaurants, the proposed legislation will help reduce the incidence of obesity and other health problems caused by poor nutrition, thus benefiting children, their parents and the tax payers who now pay the medical costs associated with obesity. Thus, on behalf of New York City's public health professionals, PHANYC enthusiastically supports A.2720 Calorie Labeling, and applauds the State Assembly's efforts to protect the health and well-being of its residents.

One of the oldest affiliates of the American Public Health Association, PHANYC is the largest association of public health professionals in New York. PHANYC has identified improving school health and fighting obesity as its two leading policy priorities, and is pleased to join the New York State Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Alliance in its support of the passage of A.8506/ S.5665. I have attached a memo of support.

Please contact Lois Uttley at 212-870-2010 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lois Uttley, MPP
Chair, Policy and Legislative Committee