

# Public Health Association of New York City

## Policy and Legislative Committee



### **Memo of Support for A.8506/S.5665 Calorie Labeling**

We at the Public Health Association of New York City (PHANYC) strongly support A.8506/ S.5665, the Calorie Labeling bill, for the following reasons:

- ❖ In New York City, a Calorie Labeling measure was enacted in January of 2008. The regulation has been smoothly implemented in chain food-service establishments. New York City restaurants have accepted the regulation and an April 2008 Zogby International poll reported that 80% of New Yorkers are in favor of calorie labeling.
- ❖ In Westchester County, a Calorie Labeling law affecting chain food restaurants will go into effect in May 2009. Similar measures have passed in Ulster and Suffolk counties and are being actively considered in four other counties.
- ❖ Since 1977, adult calorie intake has increased 200 calories per day.
- ❖ Posting choices in restaurants will help New York state consumers make healthier, more informed eating choices. In a recent NYC study, people reported they had purchased 52 fewer calories when easy-to-access calorie information was provided at point of purchase.

The Public Health Association of New York City strongly supports Calorie Labeling state-wide and commends the Assembly's efforts to enact this proposal into law.