



SENATE BILL 101

Public Health - Warning Labels and Prohibition on Color Additives in Food

February 11, 2009

POSITION: Oppose

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The *Restaurant Association of Maryland* strongly opposes Senate Bill 101, which would ultimately ban the use of selected food color additives.

All of the color additives identified in this legislation are certified for use in food, drugs and cosmetics by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). These additives remain safe for use in food because of a lack of conclusive evidence to suggest otherwise. In fact, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has conducted scientific reviews of this issue, and has found inconclusive evidence to suggest a causal relationship between the use of such dyes and behavioral changes in children.

Regardless of the data on this issue, matters such as this should remain at the federal level. The State of Maryland should not be the first to second-guess the decisions of FDA.

For these reasons, we oppose this legislation and request that you give it an unfavorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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