Testimony

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (simulation)

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Committee Members. My name is Nicholas Alexander and I am a spokesman for the [named] Institute. The question that we put before you is whether or not to require major fast food chains to print nutritional information on their products’ packaging. We argue that these labels will educate consumers and impact their menu choices to promote healthier eating habits. Opponents argue that nutritional labels do not lead to better diets and that the cost of altering packaging is not justified. We disagree, based on evidence (attached to our testimony) that indicates positive health outcomes of food labeling.

My testimony today will focus on two key issues:

The effectiveness of nutritional labeling and mandating labels through federal policy.

Studies conducted over the six years following the implementation of the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1989 have shown significant positive effects on national diet and suggest that similar effects may result from imposing labeling requirements on fast food products.

The failure of fast food corporations to abide by judicial decisions requiring distribution of nutritional information flyers and posters at all fast food restaurants is concerning. Given the observed effects of these labels on consumers’ food choices and the potential health benefits, this corporate negligence cannot be overlooked.

Thank you. I welcome your questions regarding our testimony.