

House Resolution 117 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 117

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1 A Resolution urging the United States Food and Drug
2 Administration to take action necessary to improve
3 labeling of milk and other dairy foods.

4 WHEREAS, in December 2020, based on recommendations
5 by the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, the
6 United States Department of Agriculture and the
7 United States Department of Health and Human Services
8 published the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for
9 Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, since it was first published in 1980,
11 the Dietary Guidelines for Americans have provided
12 Americans science-based advice on what to eat and drink
13 to promote health, reduce risk of chronic disease, and
14 meet nutrient needs; and

15 WHEREAS, the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for
16 Americans finds that consistent evidence demonstrates
17 that a healthy dietary pattern is associated with
18 beneficial outcomes for all-cause mortality,
19 cardiovascular disease, overweight and obesity, type 2
20 diabetes, bone health, and certain types of cancer; and

21 WHEREAS, the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for
22 Americans finds healthy dietary patterns feature milk
23 and dairy products which are an important part of a
24 healthy diet for both children and adults, contributing
25 sources of critical nutrients for human health,

1 including vitamin D, calcium, and potassium; and

2 WHEREAS, the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for
3 Americans finds current inadequate intake of
4 nutrient-dense foods and beverages has resulted
5 in underconsumption of these nutrients and is a
6 public health concern for the general United States
7 population; and

8 WHEREAS, the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for
9 Americans recommends that milk and dairy products
10 together with other sources of nutrient-dense foods
11 account for 85 percent of a person's calories; and

12 WHEREAS, according to the 2020-2025 Dietary
13 Guidelines for Americans, most Americans are not
14 meeting recommended intake for the dairy food
15 group; and

16 WHEREAS, according to the 2020-2025 Dietary
17 Guidelines for Americans, the gap between recommended
18 and current intake of dairy widens throughout life
19 stages and the age-related decrease in intake of
20 dairy foods for youth ages 2 to 18 is "notable and
21 concerning"; and

22 WHEREAS, according to the 2020-2025 dietary
23 guidelines for Americans, overall, approximately
24 90 percent of the entire population of the United
25 States does not meet the daily dairy intake
26 recommendation; and

27 WHEREAS, according to the 2020-2025 Dietary
28 Guidelines for Americans, calcium and vitamin D
29 are important at any age, that adolescents have an
30 increased need for these nutrients to support accrual

1 of bone mass, and that adults should give particular
2 attention to consuming adequate amounts of dairy foods
3 with these nutrients to promote optimal bone health and
4 prevent the onset of osteoporosis; and

5 WHEREAS, according to the 2020-2025 Dietary
6 Guidelines for Americans, close to 30 percent of men
7 and 60 percent of women older than age 19 do not
8 consume enough calcium, and more than 90 percent do not
9 consume enough vitamin D; and

10 WHEREAS, according to the 2020-2025 Dietary
11 Guidelines for Americans, dietary patterns that do
12 not meet recommended consumption amounts for food
13 groups and subgroups which include sources of calcium
14 and vitamin D, such as milk and other dairy foods,
15 contribute to low intake of these nutrients; and

16 WHEREAS, even though the average consumption of
17 milk and other dairy foods falls short of amounts
18 recommended by the United States Department of
19 Agriculture and the United States Department of
20 Health and Human Services, on average, across calorie
21 levels milk and other dairy foods still contribute
22 approximately 68 percent of calcium, 76 percent of
23 vitamin D, and 31 percent of magnesium; and

24 WHEREAS, the amount of calcium per calorie is lower
25 for most plant-based alternative milk products and to
26 obtain the amount of calcium contained in one cup of
27 imitation nonfat fluid milk alternatives derived from
28 a plant, the portion size and calorie intake must be
29 greater; and

30 WHEREAS, similarly, imitation dairy products,

1 such as plant-based products derived from rice, nuts,
2 soybeans, hemp, coconut, algae, and other items that
3 are advertised using names such as milk, yogurt, and
4 cheese, often do not provide the same nutrition content
5 as real cheese and yogurt derived from dairy cows; and

6 WHEREAS, in recent years, a proliferation of
7 imitation dairy products have entered into the
8 marketplace which are often labeled as "milk" which
9 is misleading to consumers regarding their nutrition
10 profile; and

11 WHEREAS, recent survey data indicates that many
12 consumers believe that imitation dairy products have as
13 much or more protein value than milk, when the protein
14 value of those products is actually less; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug
16 Administration is charged to protect consumers and
17 enhance public health, including by regulating how food
18 products are labeled; and

19 WHEREAS, regulations promulgated by the United
20 States Food and Drug Administration define milk and
21 cream as the "lacteal secretion, practically free from
22 colostrum, obtained by the complete milking of one or
23 more healthy cows" (21 C.F.R. §131.110); and

24 WHEREAS, this definition further applies to
25 milk used to create other dairy products, including
26 yogurt and cheese (21 C.F.R. parts 131 and 133); NOW
27 THEREFORE,

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
29 the Iowa House of Representatives urges the United
30 States Food and Drug Administration to take action

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1 necessary to enforce its regulations and better inform
2 consumers that the proliferation of imitation dairy
3 products currently mislabeled as milk be required to
4 better distinguish those items as nonmilk sources with
5 a nutritional deficit; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
7 Resolution be sent to the United States Commissioner
8 of Food and Drugs, the President and Secretary of the
9 United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the
10 United States House of Representatives, and to the
11 members of Iowa's congressional delegation.