

Carol DeSoto

From: Reuben B. Collins, II
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:27 PM
To: Carol DeSoto
Subject: Fw: Comments Healthy Meals For Children (Default Beverages)
Attachments: Healthy_Childrens_Meals_Draft_Legislation_.pdf

From: Ellen Valentino <evalentino@ellenvalentino.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 9:56 AM
To: Reuben B. Collins, II <CollinsR@charlescountymd.gov>
Subject: Comments Healthy Meals For Children (Default Beverages)

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To: Charles County Commissioners
From: Ellen Valentino
On behalf of the local beverage companies

On behalf of the MD Beverage Assn. I am writing to provide information and comment on the Healthy Meals For Children bill pending before you. Specifically, page 3, **D. Children's Beverages – Healthy Default Beverage Required**. Please consider the following amendment to this language.

Page 3, line 36 after "**WATER**" strike in entirety through line 37; insert "**, SPARKLING WATER OR FLAVORED WATER WITH NO NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL SWEETNERS;**"

Page 3, line 43 strike "**6**" substitute "**g**"; strike "**UNFLAVORED**"

Rationale:

The current bill language is conflicting, allowing sparkling water then prohibiting carbonation. This amendment will allow for sparkling water and flavored waters or a combination of juice and vegetable juice with water or sparkling water as an alternative.

Additionally, this amendment aligns with most jurisdictions across the country that have enacted similar **default beverage** policies.

Thank you. Please call me with any questions or request for additional information.

Ellen Valentino
1410-693-2226