

From: Carol DeSoto
Cc: [Carol DeSoto](#)
Bcc: [Carol DeSoto](#)
Subject: Fw: Healthy Children's Meals - Dec. 12th Meeting
Date: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:22:18 AM

Please add this to the public comments for Healthy Meals in .com and on webpage.

Thanks,
Carol

From: Reuben B. Collins, II
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 12:01 PM
To: Carol DeSoto; Christina Elkins
Cc: Julie Losh; Anita Nichols-Swann
Subject: Fw: Healthy Children's Meals - Dec. 12th Meeting
FYI

From: Brendan Mahoney <bmahoney@marylandrestaurants.com>;
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 11:24 AM
To: Amanda Stewart <StewartA@charlescountymd.gov>;; Ralph Patterson <PattersR@charlescountymd.gov>;; Reuben B. Collins, II <CollinsR@charlescountymd.gov>;; Gilbert "B.J." <Gilbert@charlescountymd.gov>;; Bowling <BowlingG@charlescountymd.gov>;; Thomasina Coates <CoatesT@charlescountymd.gov>;
Subject: Healthy Children's Meals - Dec. 12th Meeting

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Dear Board of Commissioners:

I am writing to strongly advocate for the removal or non-mandating of the nutritional criteria specified in the current draft. The process of calculating nutritional content, especially for independent restaurants, is more intricate than a simple label check. Bulk orders from suppliers often lack this information, and they are not obligated to provide it. The proposed mandate, as currently drafted, could impose a substantial financial burden on local restaurants, potentially costing them thousands of dollars annually. The complexity of nutritional calculations is further underscored by the fact that even the Charles County Public School system relies on a costly nutritional calculator for accuracy.

I appreciate the concern from the advocates on this amendment, however they do not have the first-hand experience of running a restaurant. To gain an understanding of these challenges, I strongly encourage you to meet with local restaurant owners in the coming weeks. I am more than willing to assist in coordinating such a meeting. While we are open to compromise, we cannot support legislation that would place significant financial strain on local restaurants.

Restaurants are likely to stop offering children's meals or offer them a-la-carte if this passes as drafted - meaning this legislation will not have an impact. Thank you for your consideration of this balanced and reasonable approach. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to schedule a meeting with a local restaurant operator.

Brendan J. Mahoney
Government Affairs and Local Grassroots Manager
Restaurant Association of Maryland
6301 Hillside Court | Columbia, MD 21046
443-752-2899 Cell |