



Good morning Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Carrie Rand-Anastasiades and I submit this testimony in opposition to Proposed Bill 686 An Act Concerning Access to Health and Nutritional Information in Restaurants.

Although we too feel it is important for customers to have access to nutritional information, the way in which the bill is crafted places a great burden on CT Food stores that sell many prepared items through the deli, food court and bakery. Many of the items that are sold in our markets are made on premises by store employees. Each individual's way of making the food is a bit different and not precise. If an employee is heavy handed with the mayonnaise one day, the caloric and fat intake will be different that what is printed or posted on the menu. Our food is not made in a laboratory or with precise dispensing machines as they are by major food manufacturers. To comply with the law we would have to purchase all food from a major manufacturer to get exact caloric intake. This would take away a vital connection we have with our customer base. Each market, whether they are one of ten or one hundred has a niche market that our customers depend on and enjoy. It is part of what makes you successful.

Posting caloric intake and fat is also problematic due to limited space on menu boards. We feel that all customers have to do is ask for ingredients and we will be happy to share that information with them. The exact caloric count and fat are not available, but based on ingredients, customers can make an informed decision of whether to consume the food or not. We respectfully ask the committee to reject proposed bill 686, and we would be happy to work with you to craft something that would be good for everyone. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on this matter.