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Testimony before the Public Health Committee

**Re: SB 1080 AAC ACCESS TO HEALTH AND
NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION IN RESTAURANTS**

March 6, 2009

This concerns the proposed Connecticut labeling initiative which would require the posting of caloric and nutritional information on restaurant menus, menu boards or pictorial displays. While we are in support of providing such information for our guests, we differ in what the proposed amendment to the State Code would require, and how it could potentially lead to setting a standard of regulations which vary by state.

As you may know, the National Restaurant Association has proactively supported federal legislation in the Congress of the United States that is known as the LEAN Act. This legislation will ensure that all consumers will have access to detailed nutritional information in a constant and convenient manner across the country.

We are unified with the restaurant industry that the LEAN Act would ensure that this caloric and nutritional information to our guests is convenient and accessible. Since it would be a reasonable compromise for full service restaurants like ourselves, it would allow us to disclose this information in a menu appendix, insert or supplement as opposed to being on the main menu. This would allow each of our guests to consider this information at their leisure during each dining experience. Further the Federal LEAN Act would actually provide more comprehensive nutritional information to our guests than the proposed Connecticut regulation requires.

We ask that you postpone your efforts on this regulatory action, so that a national standard can be achieved during the upcoming congressional session. At the very least, please incorporate the contents of the LEAN Act into your legislation.

Sincerely,

John Grady
President

CC: Brian Casey