



RESOLUTION NO.
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO
In Support of SB 1420

Whereas, Obesity rates in adults doubled over the last twenty years—currently, two-thirds of American adults (65%) are overweight or obese and the percentage of seriously overweight children tripled in the past two decades (from 4% to 15%); and

Whereas, Obesity is a major risk factor for many health problems, including heart disease, which is the leading cause of death in the United States, diabetes, and some cancers; and

Whereas, Since 1994, pursuant to the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (NLEA), food manufacturers have been required to provide nutritional information on nearly all packaged foods. However, the NLEA explicitly exempts restaurants; and

Whereas, In 1970, Americans spent just 26% of their food dollars on foods prepared outside the home, like restaurant meals; today the amount is 46%; and

Whereas, At most restaurants, people can only guess the nutritional quality of the food. Larger portions, higher calories and fat and lack of nutritional information have become a huge problem for the health of today's Americans; and

Whereas, Studies have found a positive association between eating out and higher caloric intakes and body weights. For example, children eat almost twice as many calories when they eat a meal at a restaurant (770 calories) as at home (420 calories); and

Whereas, Recognizing the need for consumers to have the information they need to make healthier choices when eating out, State Senator Alex Padilla (D-Pacoima) has introduced SB 1420; and

Whereas, SB 1420 would require chain restaurants with 15 or more outlets in California to provide nutritional information per item on printed menus and menu boards; and

Whereas, The United States District Court recently ruled that New York City's menu-labeling ordinance—similar to the provision of SB 1420—is legal, appropriate, and in the public interest; and

Whereas, New York City is already implementing a menu-labeling ordinance, as major food retailers have begun posting calorie counts on menu boards; and

Whereas, SB 1420 is an important step in giving consumers the information they need to make healthier food choices. Consumers have the right to know the nutritional content of restaurant meals.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors support SB 1420 and urge its passage.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 1st day of July, 2008, by the following vote of said Board:

Attest:

Cindy Keck
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
by _____

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Deputy Clerk
Supervisors

Chairman, Board of

I certify that the foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____

Attest: Cindy Keck, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado, State of California

By _____
Deputy Clerk