

Respass, Charity

From: Ellen Valentino <evalentino@ellenvaletino.com>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 4:03 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Comments CB 45-2023 Healthy Meals For Children (Default Beverages)

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To: Members of the Howard County Council

From: Ellen Valentino
On behalf of the MD-DE-DC Beverage Assn.
410-693-2226

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, **Sec. 12.2403. Children's Beverages – Healthy Default Beverage Required.**

Please consider the following amendment to this language.

Page 3, line 21 after "**WATER**" strike in entirety through line 22; insert "**, SPARKLING WATER OR FLAVORED WATER WITH NO NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL SWEETNERS;**"

Page 3, line 23 strike "**UNFLAVORED**"

Page 3, line 25 strike "**SIX**" and substitute "**EIGHT**"

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

Testimony by Vincent DeMarco
In Support of CB45-2023 before the Howard County Council
November 20, 2023

I am writing to strongly urge the Howard County Council to pass CB45-2023, The Healthy Kids Menu Act. As a long-time public health advocate in Maryland, I know that healthy eating is very important for health lives, especially for our children. Both as former Executive Director of the Maryland Children's Initiative and present President of the Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative, I have seen the negative health impacts of bad habits picked up by children such as smoking and unhealthy eating and drinking. And, we know that children take in a substantial amount of unhealthy food and beverages at restaurants. By enacting this measure, Howard County will take a major step toward helping parents protect their children from unhealthy choices. We thank the Howard County NAACP for making this measure a priority.

Respass, Charity

From: Willie Flowers <mscpresident20@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 5:33 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: TESTIMONY FOR CB-45
Attachments: CB-45_TESTIMONY.docx.pdf

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WILLIE FLOWERS
NAACP HOWARD COUNTY BRANCH #7020



NAACP

Howard County Branch

#7020

**SUPPORT FOR CB-45
For The Children, For The Future
WILLIE FLOWERS
NAACP HOWARD COUNTY BRANCH #7020**

Madame Chair and Members of the Council,

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE FOR HEARING THIS BILL AND I ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK CM LIZ WALSH FOR SPONSORING THE BILL SO THAT THE CASE CAN BE HEARD FOR THE SUPPORT A BILL LIKE THIS GIVES TO FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES.

AS YOU KNOW, THE ISSUE OF CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND THE MATTER OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE CHALLENGES WITH ALLERGIC REACTIONS TO FOOD IS REAL IN HOWARD COUNTY AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. CB-45 ALLOWS THIS ISSUED TO BE REDUCED AND GIVES FAMILIES OPTIONS AND CONFIDENCE OF KNOWING THAT RESTAURANTS ARE CONCERN WITH THOSE TO SITUATIONS WHEN FAMILIES GO OUT TO EAT.

WITH THE HEALTHY OPTIONS REQUIREMENT OF THE BILL RESTAURANTS WITH KIDS MEALS WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER HEALTHY OPTIONS FOR THEIR CUSTOMERS WITH CHILDREN. THAT'S IT.

THIS SENDS A MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY THAT RESTAURANTS WILL BE HELPFUL WITH THE CONCERN THAT FAMILIES HAVE ABOUT THE RISING OBESITY SCARES THAT COME WITH THE MODERN STANDARD AMERICAN DIET. IT MAKES ME VERY HAPPY TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE A SOLUTION TO COMBAT THAT SCARE WITH CB-45.

ACCORDING TO THE CHILD POLICY RESEARCH CENTER

- **MARYLAND RANKS 16 PREVALENCE OF CHILD OBESITY**
- **THAT MEANS 28.8.% OF OUR YOUTH ARE OBESE OR OVERWEIGHT**

AS YOU KNOW, OBESITY IS THE GATEWAY TO OTHER HEALTH CHALLENGES AND THIS BILL ASSIST WITH MANAGING THAT CONCERN.

AS WELL, CB-45 ALSO REDUCING THE CHANCE OF CHILDREN BEING EXPOSED TO FOODS THEY ARE ALLERGIC TO AND THAT IS A RELIEF TO FAMILIES AS WELL. IT SHOULD ELIMINATE ER VISITS AND ALLOW CHILDREN WHO HAVE ALLERGIES TO EAT WITHOUT THE CONCERN FOR BEING SICK OR WORSE.

AS THE NAACP WE TAKE THIS ADVOCACY JUST AS SERIOUS AS ANY CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCACY. CB-45 IS BETTER BECAUSE IT ALLOWS US TO MITIGATE THE CONCERN OF NEGATIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES ON THE FRONT END OF WELLNESS AND NOT ON THE BACK END OF SICKNESS.

WE HAVE REACHED OUT TO FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES AND THEY STAND WITH THE SPONSOR IN SUPPORT OF CB-45. THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SLICE THIS BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT REALITY IS WITH THIS BILL WE HAVE A CHANCE TO SEND A MESSAGE TO FAMILIES THAT THIS CITY COUNTY COUNCIL, A COALITION OR ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS COMMUNITY AND THE RESTAURANTS WHERE THEY SPEND THEIR MONEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY BY SEEING THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF THIS BILL.

THE NAACP HOWARD COUNTY BRANCH STANDS IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE CB-45 WITHOUT AMENDMENTS.

Gregory D. Yancey
9086 Flamepool Way
Columbia, Maryland 21045

November 20, 2023

Honorable County Council Members
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Dear Honorable Members of the County Council:

Hello, I am Gregory Yancey, the Chair of the Political Action Committee and the Legal Redress Committees of the Howard County, NAACP and a lifelong Howard Countian. I want to express my support for CB45-2023 and to request your support as well.

According to recent studies, 41.9% of Americans are considered obese and the health trend is spirally downward at an alarming rate.

- According to the 2022 State of Obesity report, Black adults have the highest rate of obesity in the U.S.—49.9%—compared to 45.6% of Hispanic adults, 41.4% of white adults and 16.1% of Asian adults¹.

That downward trend affects our children too.

- In the past three decades, childhood obesity in the U.S. has more than tripled in adolescents and more than doubled in children².

This is a public health crisis. This is a health crisis that can be mitigated by a shift in focus towards food and nutrition³. CB45-2023 takes us one step closer to a healthier Howard County.

CB45-2023 – is basically a truth in advertising bill. How can a restaurant call something a children's **meal** that provides no nutritional value? The language of the bill provides a bare minimum of nutritional value and imposes little burden on restaurants. We can do better to protect our children and our community. The failure to act now will cost us in the long run.

¹ Laurence, Emily "Obesity Statistics" Forbes Health, June 2023
www.forbes.com/health/body/obesity-statistics/#footnote_16

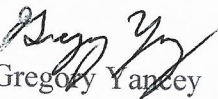
² Laurence, Emily "Obesity Statistics" Forbes Health, June 2023
www.forbes.com/health/body/obesity-statistics/#footnote_20

³ Obesity is also caused by genetics, medical injuries, food insecurity/lack of access to healthy options, and numerous factors in addition to diet and nutrition; however, improving food options would provide a significant step towards reducing obesity in a number of circumstances.

We know that problems of high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, heart disease and so many other health complications come with obesity. The “burden” on restaurants pales in comparison to the strain that we are imposing on our healthcare system, our workforce, and our community when we ignore a public health crisis.

Please support CB45-2023.

Respectfully,


Gregory Yancey



Our Letter to County Council:

Families with children often dine outside of the home, yet they struggle to find healthy options on kids' menus. As your constituent, I urge you to support legislation that ensures healthy kids' meals are served at Howard County restaurants.

The county should work with local restaurants to ensure kids' menus feature more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, and fewer calories and less sodium, saturated fat, and added sugar. By supporting this legislation, the County Council can promote healthy choices and help ensure that Howard County kids grow up with healthy habits.

Howard County can join Prince George's County and Montgomery County, which have already passed similar legislation, and demonstrate its commitment to children's health. The Howard County Council should pass legislation to make it easier for families to feed their children well.

Thank you.

Signed:

| Name | City | State/Province |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| pamela isabel | Woodstock | MD |
| Lora Wilder | Columbia | MD |
| Peggy Gessler | Ellicott City | MD |
| Cyndi Slacum | Cambridge | MD |
| David Greenberg | Columbia | MD |
| Hayden Reiter | Ellicott City | MD |
| Linda Solomon | Laurel | MD |
| Alan W | Columbia | MD |
| Joan Spicknall | Columbia | MD |
| Cecilia Crystal | Columbia | MD |
| Harley Khaang | Elkridge | MD |
| Paula Micka | Columbia | MD |
| Carole C | Columbia | MD |
| D Coffey | Elkridge | MD |
| Freya Hill | Elkridge | MD |

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|----|
| Patricia Fisher | Columbia | MD |
| Carol Elder | Ellicott City | MD |
| Ewa Yil | Laurel | MD |
| Linda Lewis | Laurel | MD |
| Michael Wallman | Ellicott City | MD |
| ruth glick | Columbia | MD |
| Susan Rettaliata | Ellicott City | MD |
| Kathleen Zeminsky | Ellicott City | MD |
| MARTIN LUTSKY | Ellicott City | MD |
| Jacqueline Bates | Columbia | MD |
| Jen Riley | Ellicott City | MD |
| Holly Learmouth | Ellicott City | MD |
| Julie Sokolowski | Clarksville | MD |
| Vanessa Strickland | Columbia | MD |
| Ly Mac | Ellicott City | MD |
| Shannon Morton | Ellicott City | MD |
| Jessica Degaine | Ellicott City | MD |
| Kristin Duda | Ellicott City | MD |
| Paula Eligado | Columbia | MD |
| Joan Orcutt | Ellicott City | MD |
| Vilma Cruz | Columbia | MD |
| Lynda Gomez De La Vega | Columbia | MD |
| Vanessa Lichliter | Ellicott City | MD |
| Monica Thompson-Wise | Ellicott City | MD |
| Leslie Kelly | Laurel | MD |
| Emily Betz | Columbia | MD |
| Jamie Creel | Laurel | MD |
| Zahra Chaudhry | Columbia | MD |
| Mary Burns | Ellicott City | MD |
| Pearl Lee | Clarksville | MD |
| Vickie Delawder | Ellicott City | MD |
| Deborah Lattimer | Columbia | MD |
| Ruby Wang | Ellicott City | MD |
| Anne-Marie Cressin | Fulton | MD |
| Ganna Khvostenko | Clarksville | MD |
| Shalini Leon-Guerrero | Ellicott City | MD |
| Shlagha Archibald | Ellicott City | MD |
| Bethann Snyder | Elkridge | MD |
| Jen Recant | Fallston | MD |
| Shalyne Brown | Columbia | MD |
| Khalilah Muhammad | Columbia | MD |
| Shannon Angarita | W FRIENDSHIP | MD |
| Michelle Denton Llera | Columbia | MD |

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|----|
| Veronica Jackson | Columbia | MD |
| Mark Breaux | Columbia | MD |
| Saba Majid | Elkridge | MD |
| Leah Renbaum | Clarksville | MD |
| Mina Sachdev | Columbia | MD |
| Celine Richardson | Highland | MD |
| LaLa Cho | Ellicott City | MD |
| Geanie PAEK | Clarksville | MD |
| Anna Choe | Ellicott City | MD |
| Chante Williams | Columbia | MD |
| Amber Scott | Ellicott City | MD |
| Elizabeth Lian | Ellicott City | MD |
| Sonya Sloan-Howard | ODENTON | MD |
| Viviana Lindo | Columbia | MD |
| Cathy Blush | Laurel | MD |
| Kiera Boyle | Columbia | MD |
| ANNA WAITE | Ellicott City | MD |
| Samara Walter | Ellicott City | MD |
| Jennifer Billmeier | Fulton | MD |
| Brandi Nadler | Highland | MD |
| Victoria Kircher | Ellicott City | MD |
| Jessica Sarin | Columbia | MD |
| Jihyun Kim | Columbia | MD |
| Emily Dye | Woodbine | MD |
| AmiCietta Clarke | Columbia | MD |
| Kari Michaud | Laurel | MD |
| Messi Tessema | Hanover | MD |
| Kelley Sanabria | Elkridge | MD |
| Kate Mead | Shady Side | MD |
| Kathleen Fedarcyk | Ellicott City | MD |
| Susan Hill | Laurel | MD |
| Tynica Stefun | Laurel | MD |
| Keia Harris | Elkridge | MD |
| Caithlin Youmans | Ellicott City | MD |
| Stefanie Feldman | Columbia | MD |
| Alyson Kindig | Columbia | MD |
| Jazmin Borges | Columbia | MD |
| Mary Easley | Columbia | MD |



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November 20, 2023

Legislation: CB45-2023 – The Healthy Meals for Children Act

Position: Support

The Horizon Foundation, Howard County's community health foundation and the largest independent health philanthropy in the state of Maryland, strongly supports Council Bill #45-2023, the Healthy Meals for Children Act.

This bill would make it easier for families to order healthier meals for their children by requiring local restaurants to offer healthier kids' menu items, while still allowing families the ability to choose what they would like for their child. It would require restaurants with kids' menus to make the default beverage a healthy default beverage (such as water or sparkling water, nonfat or 1% milk, 100% fruit or vegetable juice, etc.). It would also require that they offer at least two meals that meet expert nutrition standards for calories, fat, saturated fat, trans fats, total sugars and sodium, and include at least two of the following: ½ cup of unfried fruit or vegetables, a whole grain product or a lean protein.

Restaurants frequently offer fried chicken, burgers and fried potatoes on kids' menus, and often bundle kids' meals with sugary drinks. Research shows that overconsumption of these types of foods can lead to elevated blood pressure, high cholesterol and weight gain – major risk factors for chronic diseases including type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. In Howard County, we know that rates of diabetes and prediabetes are rising dramatically. These diseases are increasingly affecting young people and people of color, leading to serious health consequences throughout their lives.

The Horizon Foundation has worked for many years to reduce sugary drink consumption and improve access to healthy foods in Howard County. However, healthy food and drink options are inaccessible or too expensive for many families to afford compared to cheap, unhealthy options that are in abundance, particularly in communities of color and low-income communities. This legislation will give Howard County families more options for healthier meals for their children at local restaurants. When the healthy choice is the easy choice, good health is achievable for everyone.

Dozens of states and localities have passed legislation to improve healthy options on kids' menus, including Baltimore City, Prince George's County and Montgomery County. We urge Howard County to join this growing movement to improve the nutrition and overall health of children. By passing Council Bill #45-2023, Howard County can reduce sugary drink consumption, increase the availability of healthier foods at restaurants and support parents' efforts to feed their children well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respass, Charity

From: Jung, Debra
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 2:17 PM
To: Anderson, Isaiah
Subject: FW: CB45-2023 (requiring restaurants to offer healthy children's meals for sale)

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: District 4 Web Inquiry <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:44 AM
To: CouncilDistrict4@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: CB45-2023 (requiring restaurants to offer healthy children's meals for sale)

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Name Leif Powers
Email lep@leifpowers.com
Number 816-885-1287
Address 11301 Little Patuxent Pkwy Apt 127 Columbia, Maryland. 21044
Subject CB45-2023 (requiring restaurants to offer healthy children's meals for sale)

Message Good morning Deb, I realize it is late in the game (I've been sick, etc.) - I wanted to briefly to pass along a few thoughts I had on this, particularly after listening to others' testimony in November. We have fried-chicken establishments in this county, that serve sugar-packed soft drinks, to inflate our Medicare costs with diabetes, as they take years off our lives. If we want to go down the healthy-eating regulation path, those and their ilk need to be the primary targets. As for healthy options, we have grocery stores (for example, my local Giant) that offer healthy choices at most hours of the day. In any event, a parent of younger children needs to have healthy snacks on hand, because restaurants are not always available. I listened to the testimony presented for the bill - I heard that people were focused on health problems, their opinions on wants and desires, and how this bill would be a minimal business burden. I didn't hear anything that spoke to why this proposal was part of a correct, holistic approach. Optimistically, we are going to pay to micromanage a subset of businesses, to get some unclear small improvement, that has no clear epidemiological significance. Finally, I would like to remind the council and Maryland politicians generally, that we have a number of problems attracting and retaining businesses in this state. As this bill would add more business overhead, it is contrary to any strategic effort to address those problems.

From: [Rigby, Christiana](#)
To: [Anderson, Isaiah](#)
Subject: FW: Healthy Children's Meals - Restaurant Association
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 2:46:46 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-signature .png](#)
[Restaurant Association - Healthy Childrens Meals - Comments and Concerns.pdf](#)
Importance: High

From: Brendan Mahoney <bmahoney@marylandrestaurants.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 11:57 AM
To: Jones, Opel <ojones@howardcountymd.gov>; Walsh, Elizabeth <ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov>; Rigby, Christiana <crigby@howardcountymd.gov>; Jung, Debra <djung@howardcountymd.gov>; Yungmann, David <dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov>
Subject: Healthy Children's Meals - Restaurant Association
Importance: High

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilmembers,

I wanted to send you our comments and concerns again regarding the "Healthy Meals for Children" legislation. There are ways to amend the bill to make it more workable for County restaurants, while maintaining its integrity.

If this bill passes as drafted restaurants will either stop offering children's meals or offer them a-la-carte to avoid this new regulation. Which would render the new law ineffective.

In particular, we are seeking amendments #1 and #5. As mentioned in prior hearings and meetings it is impossible for our members to calculate nutritional criteria, non-scientific calculation methods mentioned in the bill such as, "cookbooks, nutrition fact labels, etc." cannot be relied upon to accurately calculate the nutritional content of children's meals. Further, these tools do not provide the required information to be compliant. The only way to be compliant with this legislation as drafted is to hire food scientist and/or dieticians to calculate nutritional criteria which would cost thousands.

This is why the majority of restaurants would stop offering children's meals or offer them a-la-carte to avoid this new regulation. As a result, the new law would have zero impact.

Finally, we would ask that the bill be held for final consideration at a later date. The hospitality industry is busiest around the holidays, and it has been difficult for operators to get involved when all hearings have occurred during this time. Postponing by a week or two would provide an opportunity for both members and non-members who have been preoccupied to actively participate and ensure their voices are heard.

Thank you for your consideration,
Brendan

Brendan J. Mahoney

Government Affairs and Local Grassroots Manager

Restaurant Association of Maryland

6301 Hillside Court | Columbia, MD 21046

443-752-2899 Cell |

signature_375118487





November 20, 2023

Howard County - Healthy Meals for Children

Position: Oppose as Currently Drafted; Amendments Requested

Dear County Council:

The Restaurant Association of Maryland opposes this bill as introduced and we respectfully request the following amendments to help make this legislation more workable for County restaurants that offer children's meals:

1. **Amendment #1 - strike the nutritional criteria specified in the bill on page 2, lines 2 through 9.**

Rationale:

Independent restaurants (local restaurants not associated with a corporate chain/brand) do not have access to the resources needed to calculate the specific nutrition values of their menu items. It can cost thousands to purchase the necessary software, or hire a company, to accurately calculate the nutritional values for even a limited number of menu items. Moreover, independent restaurants do not have the expertise of nutritionists or registered dietitians on staff to ensure that children's meals are compliant with these strict nutrition criteria, which is also necessary when ingredients change due to product availability.

It is significantly more feasible for independent restaurants to meet food group criteria (specified on page 2 & 3 of the bill) than specific nutrition criteria.

NOTE: *Federal menu labeling law requiring calorie information on menus, and additional nutrition information for menu items to be available upon request, applies only to restaurants and similar retail food establishments that are part of a chain with 20 or more locations. It would be overly onerous on independent restaurants to expend resources to calculate specific nutritional values to meet a children's meal requirement, given that they are not subject to federal menu labeling requirements for such information.*

(more)

2. **Amendment #2 – replace the requirement to serve two healthy children’s meals with one on page 2, line 16.**

Rationale:

Restaurants typically offer a limited number of children’s meals. In Howard County, most of our restaurant members have three to seven children specific menu items. Especially for our members who offer three, requiring two healthy children’s meals would equate to the County dictating over 50 percent of their children’s menu. Restaurant operators should control the majority of their children’s menu.

Further, similar legislation in Montgomery County and Prince George’s County only requires one healthy children’s meal.

3. **Amendment #3 - replace the ½ cup of unfried fruit or unfried vegetables on page 2, line 21 with ¼ cup instead.**

Rationale:

Restaurants often use pre-packaged fruit products to reduce the amount of food waste generated by unused product and to extend the shelf-life. Pre-packaged fruit products (e.g., apple slices, child-sized fruit cups, apple sauce cups or pouches) are most commonly available in sizes less than ½ cup. For children ages 4 to 8, ¼ cup of apple slices contributes about 25% of the daily recommended amount of fruit noted by the USDA MyPlate. For children ages 9 to 13, ¼ cup of apple slices contributes over 15% of the daily recommended amount of fruit noted by USDA MyPlate.

4. **Amendment #4 - strike the words “excluding juice” from the fruit exclusions on page 2, line 22.**

Rationale:

The USDA’s school meals program and Dietary Guidelines for Americans count 100% fruit juice as a fruit serving. According to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 100% juice has no added sugar and can fit into a balanced diet that provides important nutrients for children.

5. **Amendment #5 – strike the requirement for restaurants to calculate nutritional content on page 3, lines 12 through 16.**

Rationale:

As mentioned in Amendment #1 (above), Independent restaurants (local restaurants not associated with a corporate chain/brand) do not have access to the resources needed to calculate the specific nutrition values of their menu items. Other non-scientific calculation methods mentioned in the bill such as, “cookbooks, nutrition fact labels, etc.” cannot be relied upon to accurately calculate the nutritional content of children’s meals. As highlighted in a New York Times Op-Doc, [“Calorie Detective: The Real Math Behind Food Labels”](#), nutrition labels are an unreliable way to calculate specific nutritional content.

Our members are business owners and shouldn’t be expected to masquerade as food scientists or dieticians to be compliant with this legislation.

(more)

6. **Amendment #6 - expand the default beverage water options on page 3, line 22 of the bill by removing the restrictions on flavors and carbonation.**

Rationale:

This is standard language regarding allowable water options in many laws/ordinances regarding default beverages for children's meals. It is also the same language used in the default beverage requirements for children's meals in Baltimore City, Montgomery County and Prince George's County.

7. **Amendment #7 - strike the "unflavored" and "with no added natural or artificial sweeteners" restrictions on page 3, lines 23 through 24 to allow for flavored non-fat or 1% milk, or a non-dairy equivalent.**

Rationale:

The 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee found that 79% of those ages 9 to 13 that participate in the National School Lunch Program are not meeting the recommended intake of dairy foods. The USDA recently issued a final rule (published in the 2/7/2022 Federal Register) to allow school systems the option of offering flavored low-fat milk (1%) in the National School Lunch Program as a potential solution to improve milk consumption. This final rule will be in effect for at least two years.

In the final rule, USDA states that "Milk is a popular item among children and is an important source of calcium, vitamin D, and potassium—nutrients under consumed by the U.S. population. Flavored milk has received high palatability ratings from children and has been shown to encourage milk consumption among school-aged children. Studies indicate that children drink more flavored milk than unflavored milk, and that flavored milk served in the school meal programs is wasted less than unflavored milk."

Skim flavored milk (Chocolate & Strawberry), in a maximum serving size of 8 ounces, are among the approved beverages for Howard County Public Schools.

8. **Amendment #8 - on page 3, line 25, replace the 6-ounce limitation with 8 ounces instead.**

Rationale:

Limiting the serving size of juice and juice/water combinations to 6 ounces creates an unnecessary burden because it would prohibit restaurants from using other commonly available and affordable serving sizes (i.e., 6.75 ounces and 8 ounces). Many juice boxes and pouches are available in 6.75 ounces. And juice bottles are commonly available in 8 ounces. No other state or local law limits such beverages to 6 ounces for children's meals. Similar laws enacted in Baltimore City, Montgomery County and Prince George's County also allow 8-ounce serving sizes for such beverages, and Howard County should be consistent.

Thank you for your consideration of these appropriate and reasonable amendments.

Sincerely,

Brendan J. Mahoney
Government Affairs &
Local Grassroots Manager

Respass, Charity

From: Nick Nichols <beertrekker@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 6:57 AM
To: howard-citizen@googlegroups.com; CouncilMail
Subject: Re: [HOWARD-CITIZEN] Council's Tabling of Bills - Avoiding Expiration

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

The government should stay out of the forced restaurant menu game. Parents not Ball decide what their kids can order. Every restaurant in HoCo has healthy options already!
It is ridiculous to ask taxpayers to support valuable Council time forcing small mom and pops and corporations to serve Timmy carrot sticks instead of fries!

We Cannot continue to want the government to co-parent!
Parents are the boss NOT the bureaucracy.

Nichols
Woodstock
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: 'STUART KOHN' via Howard-Citizen <howard-citizen@googlegroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 6, 2024 4:29:23 PM
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>; howard-citizen@googlegroups.com <howard-citizen@googlegroups.com>
Subject: Re: [HOWARD-CITIZEN] Council's Tabling of Bills - Avoiding Expiration

Dear Council-members,

With the possibility of the Bills stated below expiring what are your plans to ensure that action will be taken especially regarding CB44-2023 - Rent Stabilization? At this time we see only one amendment. With the most compelling outpouring of public testimony we all witnessed for the establishment of Rent Stabilization it is incumbent to vote on this Bill and not allow it to expire.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 3, 2024, at 4:17 PM, 'STUART KOHN' via Howard-Citizen <howard-citizen@googlegroups.com> wrote:

FYI,

After viewing the Legislative Hearing last evening regarding Bills which were previously Tabled it would be nice to hear from Council members their rationale.

Last evening the County Council voted whether to take the following Tabled Bills off the Table. The votes for CB40, 43 and 44 in Favor to Remove from the Table was Deb Jung and Liz Walsh with Opel Jones and David Yungmann voting Against. Christina Rigby was not present. CB45 was Liz Walsh and Opel Jones voting to Remove from the Table with Deb Jung and David Yungmann saying No.

CB40 - AN ACT removing certain exemptions for stream restoration projects in the Forest Conservation Act, removing the definition of a stream. <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/api/Documents/LegislationDocument?documentId=34989>

CB43 - AN ACT authorizing the County or the Housing Commission to assign the right to purchase by written agreement to certain entities who may acquire or finance the purchase of rental housing; clarifying the time that an offer shall remain open; amending the minimum number of affordable units; defining certain terms; providing that certain assignments may be recorded; requiring that certain covenants be recorded; and generally related to the notice and right to purchase rental housing. <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/api/Documents/LegislationDocument?documentId=35356>

CB44 - AN ACT prohibiting the increase in the amount of rent over a specified amount for certain regulated units; requiring the publication of the permitted amount of rent increase; allowing a landlord to apply for a capital improvement surcharge upon a showing of certain criteria; allowing a fair return for a regulated unit; providing certain exemptions; defining certain terms; requiring that certain fees be prominently displayed; setting forth penalties; inserting a severability clause; providing for the abrogation of certain provisions of this Act; establishing a workgroup to study the effect of this Act; and generally relating to rental increases in Howard County. <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/api/Documents/LegislationDocument?documentId=35357>

CB45 - AN ACT requiring a restaurant that offers children's meals for sale to offer a certain number of healthy children's meal for sale; specifying the options required for a certain children's meal; requiring a restaurant that offers for sale a children's meal with a beverage to include a certain default beverage; preserving a consumer's choice to purchase and a restaurant's right to sell a children's meal other than a healthy children's meal; requiring the Howard County Department of Health to create and disseminate certain written informational resources; providing for the enforcement of this Act; providing for the of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to healthy meals for children. <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/api/Documents/LegislationDocument?documentId=35365>

We would appreciate a response from any and all Council members regarding their rationale for voting on the way they did on the aforementioned Tabled Bills.

Stu Kohn
HCCA President

Sent from my iPhone

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Respass, Charity

From: Angie Boyter <angie.boyter@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 11:06 AM
To: howard-citizen@googlegroups.com
Cc: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: [HOWARD-CITIZEN] Council's Tabling of Bills - Avoiding Expiration

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I agree that the government should not over-regulate businesses, but I would have to strongly disagree about healthy food being available. I like to socialize with friends over lunch, but unless you order an entree salad, it is VERY hard to get healthy options, e.g., often the only side other than either fried or garlic-laden mashed potatoes is fattening sugar-laden cole slaw. The results of eating out are obvious if you look around.

Angie Boyter

On Mon, Jan 8, 2024 at 8:59 AM Joan P <joanpontius@gmail.com> wrote:

If the restaurants "already" have healthy options, then how would this legislation "force" them to do anything differently?

Joan Pontius
EC

On Mon, Jan 8, 2024 at 6:57 AM Nick Nichols <beertrekker@hotmail.com> wrote:

The government should stay out of the forced restaurant menu game. Parents not Ball decide what their kids can order. Every restaurant in HoCo has healthy options already!

It is ridiculous to ask taxpayers to support valuable Council time forcing small mom and pops and corporations to serve Timmy carrot sticks instead of fries!

We Cannot continue to want the government to co-parent!
Parents are the boss NOT the bureaucracy.

Nichols
Woodstock
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: 'STUART KOHN' via Howard-Citizen <howard-citizen@googlegroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 6, 2024 4:29:23 PM
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov <councilmail@howardcountymd.gov>; howard-citizen@googlegroups.com <howard-citizen@googlegroups.com>
Subject: Re: [HOWARD-CITIZEN] Council's Tabling of Bills - Avoiding Expiration

Dear Council-members,

With the possibility of the Bills stated below expiring what are your plans to ensure that action will be taken especially regarding CB44-2023 - Rent Stabilization? At this time we see only one amendment. With the most compelling

outpouring of public testimony we all witnessed for the establishment of Rent Stabilization it is incumbent to vote on this Bill and not allow it to expire.

Thank You,

Stu Kohn
HCCA President

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 3, 2024, at 4:17 PM, 'STUART KOHN' via Howard-Citizen <howard-citizen@googlegroups.com> wrote:

FYI,

After viewing the Legislative Hearing last evening regarding Bills which were previously Tabled it would be nice to hear from Council members their rationale.

Last evening the County Council voted whether to take the following Tabled Bills off the Table. The votes for CB40, 43 and 44 in Favor to Remove from the Table was Deb Jung and Liz Walsh with Opel Jones and David Yungmann voting Against. Christina Rigby was not present. CB45 was Liz Walsh and Opel Jones voting to Remove from the Table with Deb Jung and David Yungmann saying No.

CB40 - AN ACT removing certain exemptions for stream restoration projects in the Forest Conservation Act, removing the definition of a stream. <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/api/Documents/LegislationDocument?documentId=34989>

CB43 - AN ACT authorizing the County or the Housing Commission to assign the right to purchase by written agreement to certain entities who may acquire or finance the purchase of rental housing; clarifying the time that an offer shall remain open; amending the minimum number of affordable units; defining certain terms; providing that certain assignments may be recorded; requiring that certain covenants be recorded; and generally related to the notice and right to purchase rental housing. <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/api/Documents/LegislationDocument?documentId=35356>

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Stu Kohn
HCCA President

Sent from my iPhone

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