



S.70 Nutritional Standards for Children's Menus in Restaurants
House Human Services Committee
Ronda Berns, Vice President of Tourism, Vermont Chamber of Commerce
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The Vermont Chamber of Commerce is a statewide organization that represents nearly 1,500 members throughout the state with 45% of membership in the restaurant and tourism industry.

The Vermont Chamber along with our restaurant members support good nutrition and understand the concerns about the links between obesity and chronic disease due to poor eating decisions. Restaurants in Vermont, furthermore, have and will continue to evolve and offer healthy choices for their patrons and their patrons children.

In speaking with many of our restaurants, most are already offering appropriate smaller portions and healthy options on their children's menus. The local food movement is utilized by many restaurants throughout Vermont and they offer fresh seasonal meals on their menus. Many Vermont's restaurants already offer milk and non-sugary drinks for children and adults following the healthier trends seen in the marketplace.

The Vermont Chamber suggests the follow ideas in lieu of implementing S.70:

- Let us work in partnership with Vermont's restaurant industry to add more healthy beverages and meal choices to children's menus
- Outreach educational programs could be created for the restaurants together with Vermont Heart Association, Vermont Chamber, local chambers and the National Restaurant Association on the benefits of healthy beverages and meal options for children

The Vermont Chamber of Commerce fully supports improving the health of Vermonters however would prefer education and partnerships over a mandate.