



**S.70 Nutritional Standards for Children's Menus in Restaurants**  
**Senate Health and Welfare Committee**  
**Ronda Berns, Vice President of Tourism, Vermont Chamber of Commerce**  
**February 8, 2018**

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. We are also the official state partner of the National Restaurant Association. Our understanding and knowledge of the restaurant industry is deep and broad.

The Vermont Chamber and its 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 children. Many restaurants, for example, already offer appropriate small portions sized plates for children in addition to fresh salads, grilled meats, vegetables, vegetarian, fresh fruit and a la carte items to provide healthy options. The local food movement is utilized by many restaurants throughout Vermont and allows them to offer fresh seasonal meals on their menus including their children's menus that fit in with their standard menu offerings.

While the Vermont Chamber of Commerce supports improving the health of Vermonters, the Chamber does not support a mandate that will incur additional costs to doing business and that will limit the ability of restaurateurs to develop menus based on their individual customer's preferences.

Sincerely,

Ronda Berns  
Vice President of Tourism  
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