



protecting communities  
from commercialism

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The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201  
Via telecopier (202) 690-7203

**RE: Joint WHO/FAO draft report on "Diet, Nutrition  
and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases"**

Dear Secretary Thompson:

We are writing to urge you to support the joint World Health Organization (WHO)/Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) draft report and recommendations on "Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Disease." The draft report was issued on April 26, 2002.

As you know, United States citizens and people around the world are suffering and dying from alarming rates of advertising-related and diet-related chronic diseases, such as obesity, diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and stroke. These diseases are frequently worsened by the marketing and consumption of too much high-fat, high-sugar, high-calorie junk food and foods of low nutritional value, and the lack of physical exercise.

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The joint WHO/FAO report encourages countries to adopt policies to reduce the health toll of these chronic diseases. Such policies include advertising restrictions, adequate food labeling, promotion of physical exercise, increased nutritional education and restrictions on marketing of junk food to schoolchildren.



The joint WHO/FAO draft report and policy recommendations will help lessen the chronic disease burden both in the United States and across the world. It deserves your strongest support.

Sincerely,

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cc: The Honorable Kevin E. Moley, Permanent Representative of the US to the European Union  
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