



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

News Release

June 1, 2009

CONTACT: Molly Woon (503) 986-1074

Menu-labeling clears final legislative vote

HB 2726 will offer Oregonians details about calories, fats, and sodium

SALEM –In a vote to promote public health and fight against obesity and diabetes, the Senate passed a bill this morning that requires chain restaurants to provide detailed nutritional information on their menus and drive-through displays. House Bill 2726 requires all restaurants with more than 15 locations nationwide to provide patrons with information about calories, fats, and sodium for all menu items.

“By requiring chains to provide nutritional information we are empowering consumers to decide what meals are best for their lifestyle,” said Senator Alan Bates (D-Ashland), who carried the bill on the floor. “Many people are not aware of the calories or fats in the foods they order. This information will allow them make informed decisions.”

Menu-labeling provisions have passed in Multnomah County, Seattle, Philadelphia, New York City, and California. A poll by the Northwest Health Foundations found that 69 percent of Oregonians statewide say they want more nutritional information on restaurant menus.

“Consumers across the state are telling us they want this information,” said Senator Bill Morrisette (D-Springfield), a sponsor of the bill. “This is one small step we can take to fight against our nation’s epidemic of obesity and preventable diabetes.”

According to the Weight Control Information Network, approximately 134 million Americans are overweight and one-third of Americans are obese.

HB 2726 was introduced in the House by Representative Tina Kotek (D-Portland) and Representative Mitch Greenlick (D-Portland). The bill now goes to the Governor’s desk for his signature.

###

For more information on the Senate Majority Caucus, please visit oregonsenatedemocrats.com