



April 4, 2026

Senator Forrest Dunbar, Chair  
Health & Social Services Committee  
Room 125, State Capitol  
120 Fourth Street, Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 187**

Dear Chairman Dunbar,

The International Association of Color Manufacturers (IACM) is opposed to Senate Bill 187. IACM is the association representing the global color industry, comprised of manufacturers and end-users of natural and synthetic color additives that are used in foods, drugs, and cosmetics.

This legislation would force the removal of products containing safely approved FD&C colors from school meals. There is no justification for this in any scientific literature. This is unnecessary, is not based on science, and will significantly impact Alaska schools.

We urge you to consider:

**Synthetic colors are safe.** The FD&C colors referenced in these bills are among the most carefully studied and regulated substances in the world. In the U.S., the Food Drug & Cosmetic Act charges FDA with ensuring the safety of our food supply. It ensures that harmful substances cannot be introduced into food if they are known to cause harm.

FDA and global regulators are tasked with protecting public health and will act if there are scientific reasons to do so. FDA has acted on other substances as evidence has emerged. The fact that these FD&C colors remain approved means that there is no scientific evidence to disallow their use in food.

The FDA, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Health Canada, and the FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committee (JECFA) on Food Additives have conducted comprehensive risk assessments on synthetic colors and all have concluded that they continue to be safe for use and that current evidence does not establish a causal relationship between consumption and adverse behavior, including hyperactivity.

There is no evidence that FD&C colors are harmful, and they do not cause hyperactivity.

**FD&C color additives are not banned in Europe or elsewhere.** They are in fact found in many food items in the European Union, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and other countries. Differences in product formulation between the U.S. and elsewhere are due to consumer preference, not government mandates.

**This will have an impact on Alaska schools.** This legislation requires schools to greatly limit their food choices immediately, placing a huge burden on already stressed officials. This disruption will not provide any health benefits as removing safe FD&C colors will not improve the nutritional profile of school meals or reduce processed foods in schools.

The science about FD&C colors is clear, they are safe when used as intended for their approved purposes at their approved concentrations or amounts. This legislation is a misguided approach that will not improve health but will increase strains on Iowa schools.

We respectfully request your opposition to SB 187.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sarah Codrea  
Executive Director  
scodrea@iacmcolor.org

cc: Members of the Health & Social Services Committee