

Alaska State Legislature House of Representatives

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Session
State Capitol Rm 412
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HB 163 SPONSOR STATEMENT

"An Act relating to school fundraisers; relating to the duties of the Department of Health and Social Services; and providing for an effective date."

Imagine it is your child's birthday and you spend the evening baking cupcakes to share with their class. After hours of baking and decorating you carefully wrap your snack ready for the next day's activities. The next morning you head out with your excited birthday child and walk proudly into the school with your treat. To your dismay you are told that the time honored tradition of homemade treats has now come under federal attack. The Federal Smart Snacks standards outline in Healthy, Hunger-Free kids Act of 2010 requires all food during the school day to meet national nutrition standards. Your child is devastated!

Having overstepped its regulatory authority, the USDA has proposed a sweeping plan that would regulate the types of foods and beverages that can be marketed on school property. The resulting laws put the Department of Agriculture in the business of determining the amount of calories, fat and sodium students should consume in a given school day. I would like to just repeat--the Department of Agriculture. The agriculture secretary is now telling schools the type of milk, vegetables and grain that cannot be served in cafeterias. The law places greater federal control over wellness policies best left in the hands of state and local leaders.

The Federal standards will severely cut into the thousands of dollars schools raise to support school programs and activities. Currently, all Alaskan school fundraisers for PTAs, student groups, and sport teams are now limited to selling carrot sticks and rice cakes to generate revenue. Parents who wish to contribute homemade items for school events must now review their family recipes to ensure federal compliance to nutritional standards. Forcing parents and school organizations to only offer federally approved food and snacks at fundraisers is a perfect example of federal overreach and intrusion into the time honored tradition of the school bake sale.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE ~ REPRESENTATIVE TAMMIE WILSON

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The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA), requires that all food sold outside of the school meal programs, on the school campus and at any time during the school day must meet national nutrition standards. The “Smart Snacks” standards allows State governments flexibility for special exemptions for the purpose of conducting infrequent school-sponsored fundraisers during which foods that do not meet the nutrition standards for Smart Snacks may be sold. State agencies may determine the frequency with which fundraising activities take place that allow the sale of food and beverage items that do not meet the nutrition standards. Alaska is one of 29 states that currently do not have a policy under the Smart Snacks standards. As a result, the state of Alaska has defaulted to zero exempt fundraisers. Thus, all school fundraisers in Alaska must meet the strict nutrition standards as set by the federal government.

It is the purpose of HB 163 is to require the Department of Education and Early Development to adopt regulations authorizing schools to approve fundraisers involving the sale of foods that do not meet the food nutrition standards.

Thank you for your support of HB 163.