


F R O M	Name & Title	Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D. Commissioner	Health Department  MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 210 Guilford Ave.		
	Subject	Council Bill 08-0034 - Food Service Facilities - Trans Fats		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o  
409 City Hall

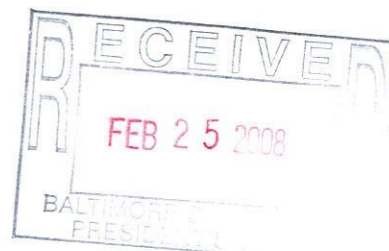
February 5, 2008

The Baltimore City Health Department is pleased to support Council Bill 08-0034, which would prohibiting food service facilities from serving, using, storing, distributing, or holding food containing trans fat; defining certain terms; providing certain exceptions; requiring the retention of certain labels or documentation; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the prohibition of trans fats in or by a food service facility.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined that scientific evidence shows that consumption of saturated fat, *trans* fat, raises "bad cholesterol," levels, which increases the risk of coronary heart disease (CHD). Additionally, the National Institutes of Health assert that more than 12.5 million Americans have CHD, and more than 500,000 die each year from the disease, which makes CHD one of the leading causes of death in the United States. In light of the impact that the consumption of trans fat has upon individuals, as of January 2006, the FDA requires food manufacturers to list *trans* fat on all their products.

Locally, cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in Baltimore City and a key contributor to the racial gap in life expectancy. African Americans are disproportionately more impacted by cardiovascular disease than Caucasians. As a response, Baltimore City has initiated a plan to address the cardiovascular disease disparity existent in the city among minority populations. A wrap around approach to addressing CHD is needed in order for this plan to be successful. The enactment of this bill would be a critical step to achieve this goal and provide support to the City's efforts to improve the health status of all its citizens.

Cc: Angela Gibson



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