

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0544**

April 13, 2017

The Honorable Ed Hernandez, O.D.  
Chair  
CA Senate Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Room 2191  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Janet Nguyen  
Vice Chair  
CA Senate Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Room 2191  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 300, the Sugar-Sweetened Beverages Health Warning Act**

Dear Chair Hernandez and Vice Chair Nguyen:

We write to urge you to support a bill coming before the Senate Committee on Health on April 19. SB 300, the Sugar-Sweetened Beverages Health Warning Act will equip consumers and parents with the information they need to make informed decisions about their and their family's health.

It is important for Californians to know the true impact of sugar-sweetened beverage consumption on their health because its impact is overwhelmingly negative. Sugar does not provide any nutritional benefit and the medical consensus is that sugar has deleterious health effects. Overconsumption of sugar can lead to type 2 diabetes, heart disease, fatty liver disease and tooth decay.

Californians suffer greatly from diseases caused, in part, by the overconsumption of sugar. More than half of all adults in California have diabetes or prediabetes. Of those with prediabetes, nearly 70 percent will go on to develop type 2 diabetes.

The diseases caused by the overconsumption of sugar will exact a punishing toll on California's economy. Today, diabetes treatment costs Californians at least \$24.5 billion each year, and this figure will only worsen as diabetes rates increase across the Golden State. Since diabetes rates are disproportionately high among Medi-Cal eligible individuals, the burden of treatment costs will be placed on California taxpayers. But far worse is the cost in human life if this epidemic goes unchecked - tens of thousands of Californians will die each year from complications associated with diabetes.

Proper diet can stem the onset of diabetes and other chronic diseases. **To prevent the onset of diabetes and other chronic diseases, Californians need to have basic, science-based information on the effects of sugar consumption.**

SB 300 meets this objective in an unobtrusive, simple way - it would require that sugar-sweetened beverage containers include a warning that "beverages with added sugar contribute to obesity, type 2 diabetes, and tooth decay." This label does not moralize, shame or cajole. It equips consumers with the medical consensus on sugar consumption. The well-established Alcoholic Beverage Labeling Act (ABLA) accomplishes the same ends with respect to alcohol as does tobacco product labeling with respect to cigarettes. SB 300 is a reasonable step with the science firmly behind it.

California and the nation are facing an epidemic of diabetes and other chronic diseases caused by a poor diet and the overconsumption of sugar-sweetened beverages. You are in the unique position to foster a healthier California. We urge you to support SB 300 and we thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

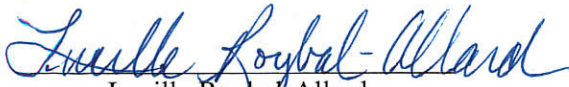
Sincerely,



Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress



Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Toni G. Atkins  
The Honorable Connie M. Leyva  
The Honorable Holly J. Mitchell  
The Honorable Bill Monning  
The Honorable Josh Newman  
The Honorable Jim Nielsen  
The Honorable Richard D. Roth