

Policy Priorities

As “Plant Food Advocates” on HBCU campuses we support the following legislative priorities:

- **Add Soy Act - S.2943** - This bill requires schools to substitute a nondairy beverage for fluid milk in the National School Lunch Program upon the request of a student or their parent or guardian. Under current law, schools participating in the program may provide a substitute at the request of a medical authority or the student's parent or guardian. The bill also removes current requirements that (1) the substitute request be based on an identified medical or other special dietary need that restricts the student's diet, and (2) the school food authority pay for any additional expenses resulting from providing the substitute that exceed the covered reimbursement amounts.
- **Amend the definition of term “Food”** in the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act at 21 USC 321(f) to have the following meaning or close to:

Food is defined as -“any living substances when consumed that contains naturally occurring proteins, carbohydrates, fats, fiber, and water along with vitamins and minerals that when eaten in combination are necessary to sustain human cell growth, vital bodily processes and furnish energy that are free from toxic hazardous substances and biohazards, including but not limited to blood, methionine, cysteine and histidine, and may include other articles that may not be living when consumed that are used for food or drink for man or other animals so long as the articles are labeled indicating that the article is not a living article, and/or contains toxic hazardous substances, and/or biohazards and do not contain water, fiber, carbohydrates and vitamins and minerals in which case the article label must indicate if it is fortified with vitamins, minerals, fiber and water.
- **Passage of the Peas, Legumes, and Nuts Today Act (PLANT Act) H.R.5023** by McGovern to expand opportunities to support farmers and food companies making plant-based foods
- **Passage of the Medically Tailored Home-Delivered Meals Demonstration Pilot Act H.R.6780** as a permanent program of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) under which hospitals can provide medically tailored, home-delivered meals and associated nutrition therapy for beneficiaries who have a diet-impacted disease (e.g., kidney disease) after they are discharged from the hospital.
- **Passage of the Farm Bill** that includes the creation of a HBCU Plant Food As Medicine Center of Excellence, Research and Health Equity
- Bills that increase Plant Foodpreneurship on HBCU campuses and the development of Plant Powered Medical Clinics and Centers of Farm and Medical Innovation on HBCU campuses.

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Bills Opposed

Several bills have been introduced in this Congress that would mandate new labeling requirements for plant-based meat, dairy, and egg products. These bills are designed to pick winners and losers in an already uneven market, stifle innovation, and limit the ability of consumers to make informed choices that align with their interests. This legislation is unnecessary, burdensome, and unlikely to withstand constitutional scrutiny. Consumers of plant-based foods are not confused. Particularly, the fastest growing communities of color who are turning to a Plant-based Lifestyle primarily for health reasons know exactly what they are buying and do not need to be treated as if they are not intelligent enough to make smart choices. Further, PBFA and our member companies are deeply committed to ensuring that consumers are fully informed, which is why we have established industry guidance for the labeling of plant-based products.

The HBCU-CPLM urge Members of Congress to oppose these harmful bills (listed below) and all other legislation designed to hinder the market for plant-based foods.

- “FAIR Labels Act” (S. 3693 / H.R. 7130), which would create new, duplicative authority for the Department of Agriculture (in addition to the Food and Drug Administration) to regulate the labeling of plant-based meat and poultry products by prescribing unnecessary disclaimers.
- “Consistent Egg Labels Act” (S. 3584 / H.R. 6945), which would prohibit interstate commerce of products using a market name for an egg or egg product unless they come from “the reproductive output of avian poultry species, including an albumen or yolk that is, or was at any point, encased in a calcium-based shell.”
- “DAIRY PRIDE Act” (S. 549 / H.R. 1462), which would prohibit interstate commerce of products using the market name of a dairy product (such as milk, yogurt, or cheese) unless the food “contains as a primary ingredient, or is derived from, the lacteal secretion . . . obtained by the complete milking of one or more hooved mammals.”
- “Real MEAT Act of 2023” (S. 3281), which would prohibit the sale of any food product using the market name of a meat product unless its label prominently includes: (1) the word “imitation”, and (2) a disclaimer-type statement indicating the product is not derived from or does not contain meat.

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