

Feb.13.2024

The Honorable Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

RE: Vote YES: Mrs. Fisher's S.3281: Real MEAT Act of 2023

Dear Senator Padilla,

My name is Xiaotong Fei and I am a Clinical Nutrition student who studies in your district. I am writing to you due to an action that brings up my concern.

Please vote yes to the S.3281: Real MEAT Act of 2023, which urges to labeling meat and imitation meat more clearly and I provide three reasons for supporting my request.

1). The mislabeling of real meat and imitation meat dangers certain groups' lives. Imagining if some people are newly diagnosed with an allergy to pork due to outside triggers, such as environmental stimulations on the genes, and they have been eating pork consistently for their previous life before being diagnosed, it will be very difficult for them to quit on eating pork. In that case, imitation pork will be a good choice for them since it does not contain any actual pork meat, but it still contains the texture and flavor. Clearly labeling imitation meat and separating it from real meat ensures safety of this group of people. 2). Labeling imitation meat correctly embraces diversity. In USA, many people choose to not eat animals due to many factors, such as opposing to animal slaughters or helping the earth be more sustainable. For vegetarians and vegans, imitation meat is a common choice in their diet. By stating the labels clearly, it is easier for them to shop at the grocery store and to rich their diet for a more balanced nutritional meal. 3). In another perspective, separating real meat and imitation meat also protects the customers' rights. Ambiguous labels mislead customers, which degrades their rights of purchasing goods freely in the market.

As for me, I had the experience of accidentally buying imitation meat instead of real meat due to the very ambiguous labels. I personally felt tricked, and I needed to spend more time driving to the market to exchange or to return it. Nonetheless, not all markets agree to change the product for me sometimes. Customers should be the one with whole rights to decide whether to buy a product or not and it is unethical for companies to confuse customers by being negligent on labels between real meat and imitation meat.

Please consider the impacts that this action might bring and vote yes on this issue.
I am very looking forward for your responses.

Sincerely,

Xiaotong Fei

Xiaotong Fei
1175 Lake Blvd, apt 215
Davis, CA, 95616

1. The number and title of the bill (e.g., SB 219)

S.3281: Real MEAT Act of 2023.

2. Source of your information (full, accessible URL)

https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/118/s3281#google_vignette

3. Brief paragraph describing the issue.

This issue urges the government to take the labeling of real meat and imitation meat seriously and urges the Secretary should take actions when there is a situation of ambiguity on the labels happening. For example, when the labeling of imitation meat does not state clearly that this product does not contain any actual meat, the Secretary should report this and record on file.

4. Who you wrote to and their formal title. Also include:

I wrote to Alex Padilla, a senator from CA. I wrote to him since the issue I am concerning about is under the U.S. Congress and I should send my email to one of the senators that in charge of voting for California. Alex has influence on the issue since he is the secretary of CA state.

5. Which House it's in (Senate/HR or State Senate/Assembly

Senate.

6. The bill's progress so far; select the "history" tab to see where it currently is in the legislative process.

This bill is being introduced on Nov.9th, 2023 and has not been passed.