
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8016

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Agriculture (originally sponsored by Senators M. Rasmussen, Spanel, Haugen, Prince, Loveland, Barr, Erwin, McDonald, Roach, Bauer, Drew, Gaspard, Skratek, McAuliffe, Sheldon, Prentice, Fraser, Rinehart, Deccio, Jesernig, Winsley, Pelz, McCaslin, Sellar, von Reichbauer, Vognild, Moyer, A. Smith, West, Franklin, Wojahn, Hochstatter, Quigley, Anderson, Amondson and Oke)

Read first time 02/26/93.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND TO THE FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY
6 INSPECTION SERVICE, AND TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND
7 PREVENTION, AND TO THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION:

8 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
9 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
10 represent and petition as follows:

11 WHEREAS, A great public health alarm has been caused in Washington
12 state with over four hundred fifty people confirmed as having
13 contracted Escherichia Coli 0157:H7 since early December of 1992; and

14 WHEREAS, E. Coli 0157:H7 has caused the death of three children,
15 over one hundred fifty people have been hospitalized as of February 20,
16 1993, and thirty children have suffered hemolytic uremic syndrome, a
17 serious side effect that causes kidney dysfunction and affects the
18 blood clotting system; and

19 WHEREAS, People have contracted the infection by eating
20 insufficiently cooked hamburger that had this particular strain of E.

1 Coli bacteria which contaminated the meat during or after the time of
2 slaughter; and

3 WHEREAS, The extent that this newly detected strain of highly toxic
4 bacteria is causing infections elsewhere in the United States is not
5 accurately known because most other states have not designated E. Coli
6 0157:H7 as a reportable disease; and

7 WHEREAS, Though citizens of the United States have enjoyed the
8 safest food supply in the world, this outbreak has eroded confidence in
9 food safety in general and meat inspection in particular, and unless
10 the problem is fully addressed, additional outbreaks are likely to
11 occur;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, Your memorialists respectfully pray that the
13 appropriate federal agencies, including, but not limited to, the
14 Federal Food Safety Inspection Service of the United States Department
15 of Agriculture, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the
16 Food and Drug Administration form a task force to: (1) Promptly and
17 fully investigate and monitor outbreaks of E. Coli 0157:H7 throughout
18 the United States in cooperation with state and local governments; (2)
19 examine the full food chain process from farm to table to determine how
20 improvements may be made to better guarantee the safety of our food
21 supply; (3) examine whether meat and meat products imported into this
22 country comply with comparable inspection and health standards as does
23 domestically processed meat; (4) designate E. Coli 0157:H7 as a
24 reportable disease throughout the nation; and (5) start the process
25 needed to update the Food and Drug Administration Model Food Code to
26 reflect the new knowledge and technology that impact food safety.

27 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Federal Food Safety Inspection Service is
28 requested to provide a written report to the Washington state
29 legislature in January 1994 of the changes and improvements that have
30 been accomplished to address this public health issue; and

31 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
32 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
33 States, Mike Espy, Secretary of the United States Department of
34 Agriculture, the Federal Food Safety Inspection Service, the Centers
35 for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration,
36 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
2 Washington.

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