
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8016

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

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 02/12/93. Referred to Committee on Agriculture.

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:

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

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

13 WHEREAS, E. Coli 0157:H7 has caused the death of two children, one
14 hundred twenty-five people have been hospitalized as of February 8,
15 1993, and many children have suffered hemolytic uremic syndrome, a
16 serious side effect that causes kidney dysfunction and affects the
17 blood clotting system; and

18 WHEREAS, People have contracted the infection by eating
19 insufficiently cooked hamburger that had this particular strain of E.
20 Coli bacteria in it caused by animal feces coming into contact with the
21 meat at the time of slaughter; and

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

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

10 NOW, THEREFORE, Your memorialists respectfully pray that the
11 Federal Food Safety Inspection Service of the United States Department
12 of Agriculture form a task force to promptly and fully investigate and
13 monitor outbreaks of E. Coli 0157:H7 throughout the United States and
14 to examine the full food chain process from farm to table to determine
15 how improvements may be made to better guarantee the safety of our food
16 supply.

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

21 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
22 transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United
23 States, Mike Espy, Secretary of the United States Department of
24 Agriculture, the Federal Food Safety Inspection Service, the Centers
25 for Disease Control, the President of the United States Senate, the
26 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress
27 from the State of Washington.

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