



Dear Council Members:

We write as an interfaith coalition representing faith-based organizations throughout New York City in support of a critical piece of legislation pending before you in the City Council.

Introduction 1326, sponsored by Health Committee Chair Council Member Mark Levine, would require chain restaurants to post warning icons on menu items that contain 100% or more of the daily value for added sugar. This proposed policy would be the first in the United States to require warnings for high-sugar menu items and is similar to the sodium warning icon that the City implemented in 2016. The bill has gone through several changes since its introduction in 2019 and as it stands currently, only applies to pre-packaged menu items, like bottled soda.

While we applaud the bill sponsor and the Council for taking an important step towards empowering consumers with information to make informed choices when patronizing fast food restaurants, we believe the bill needs to be expanded to cover menu items that are prepared in the store, such as fountain soda. A recent report found that most full-calories fountain colas exceeded the daily value for added sugars, even in the “small” size category. Warnings can help encourage chains to rethink their menus, improving the food environment, a critical step as New Yorkers return to restaurants following the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is crucial that the Council amend and pass Introduction 1326 so that our parishioners and congregants, many of whom are constituents of yours, can be warned when a menu item has excessive added sugars. As a coalition, we have made tremendous strides in our own communities to educate our members about making food choices that support their health, and action by the Council can help elevate and support our work so that New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs can have better access to information about their food.

We are asking that you review the proposed legislation and strongly encourage you to consider adding your name to the bill as a co-sponsor. In the coming weeks and months, we will be conducting outreach to our members and direct engagement with you and your colleagues in our respective communities to discuss the importance of passing Introduction 1326.

We look forward to partnering, as we have in the past, to pass meaningful and impactful legislation that will help improve public health for all New Yorkers.

Signed,

African Life Center
All Saints Episcopal Church
Baekmin Presbyterian Church in New York, INC.
Bayside United Methodist Church
Bronx Deliverance Center of Faith Church

Brooklyn Emerge
Capuchin Province of St. Mary
Church Alive Development Corp.
Church of God of Prophecy - The Bronx Church
Church of St. Helena
Church of the Ascension, NYC
Church of the Pilgrim Holiness, Inc
Community United Methodist Church, Jackson Heights
CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute
Darou Salam Islamic Community, Inc
Elpis WPM
Faith in New York
First Presbyterian Church of Williamsburg
Fort Schuyler Presbyterian Church
Gambian Youth Organization
Garden of Prayer Cathedral
Golden Leaf Community Development Center
Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Inc.
Good Shepherd Church, Roosevelt Island, NY
Gurdwara Baba Makhan Shah Lobana
HaKnesiah Presbyterian Church
Harden Memorial CME
King of Glory Tabernacle
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan NY
Lord's Table Mission
Lords Will Presbyterian church
Loring Place Holiness Church
Methodist Federation for Social Action - New York Chapter
Mt. Zion CME Church
Muslim Community Network
NY Sasomang Church
NYC Franciscan Justice Circle
Pakistani American Youth Organization
PATHHSEO Soup Kitchen at Caldwell Temple AME
Peace Presbyterian Church of New York
Pisgah Gospel Ministries
Russell Institutional CME Church
Safe Zone Cross Culture Youth Inc
Saint Augustine Our Lady of Victory Church
Sikh Cultural Society Inc.
Soaring Eagles Community Outreach Inc.
St. Paul World Mission
St. James Church
St. Paul AME Church
St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, Bronx, NY
Tremont United Methodist Church
Trinity Episcopal Church of Morrisania
True Gospel Tabernacle

United Sikhs

Universe City NYS

Uri L'Tzedek: the Orthodox Social Justice movement

Victory Baptist Church

Williams Institutional CME Church