

May 18, 2017

The Honorable Tom Price, MD
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Scott Gottlieb, MD
Commissioner
Food & Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Secretary Price and Commissioner Gottlieb:

We, the undersigned scientists and researchers, urge you not to delay the updated Nutrition Facts labels that would tell Americans how much added sugars are in their foods. Americans consume added sugars, especially sugar-sweetened beverages, in amounts that are linked to a higher risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity, tooth decay, and nutrient-poor diets. The new Nutrition Facts labels would also tell consumers how much of a day's worth of added sugars a serving of food contains. Without those labels, consumers cannot follow advice from the government's own Dietary Guidelines for Americans, American Heart Association, World Health Organization, and other health authorities to cut back on added sugars. To protect the public's health, we ask for your commitment to maintain the July 2018 compliance deadline for major food companies and the July 2019 deadline for smaller ones.

Sincerely,

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