

Dear Friend,

It's hard to think that the food we put on the dinner table might not be safe. Yet each year, 76 million Americans become sick from eating contaminated foods. Unfortunately, this isn't surprising, considering the Food and Drug Administration spends their time responding to food-borne illness outbreaks instead of working to prevent them.

I'm proud to tell you that this may soon change. On Wednesday, the House passed – and I voted for - the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, a critical consumer protection bill aimed at strengthening our nation's food safety system in a variety of ways. Our bill gives food producers and the FDA new responsibilities for keeping our nation's food contaminant-free, and directs them to work to prevent illness instead of just responding to illness outbreaks.

Specifically, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act will:

- Make food producers identify, evaluate, and address potential hazards through a new, FDA-approved food safety plan;
- Give the FDA expanded access to a food production facility's records;
- Ensure U.S. food testing labs meet high-quality standards;
- Require importers to verify the safety of imported foods, and;
- Improve our overall capacity for dealing with food-borne illness outbreaks.

I am eager to see the Senate pass this legislation quickly and send it to the President so that it can be signed into law.

For more information on food safety and other consumer protection issues, please visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov>.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel

Member of Congress