

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 120 without my signature.

This bill would require restaurants with at least fourteen locations in California to display nutrition information on menus and menu boards.

The health of Californians has been a priority for my Administration. As Governor, I have outlined my Vision for a Healthy California. This vision calls on individuals, communities, businesses and government to work together to promote an environment that encourages healthy eating, regular physical activity and responsible individual choices. In addition, I have signed legislation to get junk food out of our schools as well as to provide incentives to increase purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables in low-income communities.

While I support providing people information to help them make healthy choices, this bill is impractical. As written, SB 120 would place burdens and costs upon some restaurant owners while imposing no burdens or costs on others. In addition, this bill provides restaurants with little flexibility for how they provide consumers with nutritional information. From brochures to tray liners, many restaurants are responding to consumer demand by providing nutritional information to their customers in a variety of ways. Further, more and more companies are making detailed information available online, allowing consumers to compare one restaurant's healthy dining options to another.

Inflexible mandates applied sporadically are not an effective way to continue our progress in educating Californians about healthy living. Restaurants throughout California have demonstrated that they are committed to working with me to promote this goal. In vetoing this bill, I am calling upon the restaurant community to reiterate this commitment and continue to work with me, the proponents of this bill, and all Californians in developing effective ways to promote healthy dining options.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger