



Tax-Reporting Repealed from health care law

Congress and the White House passed a repeal to a tax-reporting requirement contained in last year's health-care law that was widely criticized for being too burdensome, the first significant change to the law and one of the few bipartisan acts of Congress so far this year.

House Administration Chairman Dan Lungren, R-CA, held a news conference on H.R. 4, the Small Business Paperwork Mandate Elimination Act of 2011.



The tax-reporting measure would have required businesses to file 1099 forms with the Internal Revenue Service showing payments of \$600 or more to vendors. The goal was to reduce tax evasion, but businesses said it would have added to the time and cost of tax preparation.

Republicans and Democrats agreed that repealing the tax-reporting requirement was a good idea, but had differed over how to compensate for it. The approved repeal would make up for taxes lost to vendor evasion by requiring low- and middle-income Americans who receive a tax credit for buying their own health insurance to repay the credit if their income winds up being too high. The repayment obligation would show up as a tax charge during the tax filing season.

"How would most middle-class families deal with a tax bill of \$10,000 or more just because their income may have increased \$1 above the eligibility limits during the year they got accepted?" said Sen. Bob Menendez (N.J.), who tried and failed to repeal the mechanism for dealing with the cost of the repeal.

The National Taxpayers Union, a group that focuses on cutting taxes, has estimated that the repeal would cost \$19.7 billion. The group estimated that the losses would be offset by taking back \$19.9 billion in overpayments.

School leaders offer thanks for donation of salad bars



Fruits and vegetables from salad bars in New Orleans schools will help children learn healthier eating habits at home, according to an administrator whose students benefit from donated salad bars.

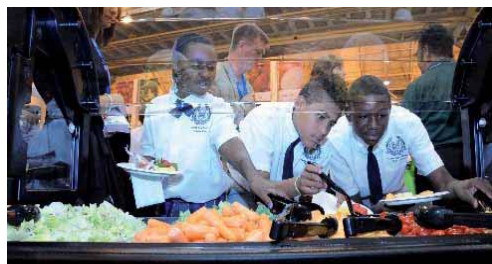
Andrea Thomas-Reynolds, chief executive officer of Algiers Charter Schools Association, was one of several New Orleans school officials thanking the United Fresh Produce Association May 3 for the donation of 33 salad bars to local schools.

"We are so grateful and we really appreciate your willingness and excitement to work with us," Thomas Reynolds said at a news conference on the donations during United Fresh 2011.

The donation, which will provide 80,000 children in New Orleans with fresh fruits and vegetables, was possible through industry donations to the United Fresh Foundation's Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools initiative. The event on the show floor brought representatives of the schools and 26 donor companies together.

The National Watermelon Association, one of the 26 New Orleans donors, provided a salad bar to Joseph S. Clark High School in New Orleans.

The salad bars will help to increase children's consumption of fruits and vegetables by creating good choices and habits in their learning years. The three students that attended the press conference were excited about fixing their plates and enjoying the salads. By the way all three of them enjoyed the watermelon, which has become a primary request amongst students in New Orleans.



New Orleans students help themselves to fresh produce from a salad bar at United Fresh 2011.

FDA seeks input on GAPs, HACCP

The Food and Drug Administration is seeking industry input about preventive controls and best practices in relation to food safety as it prepares to draft guidance documents.

The May 23 comment request in the Federal Register stated comments would be accepted through August 22nd. Comments can be submitted online at <http://tinyurl.com/FDA-GAP-comments>, or via traditional mail to: Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), FDA, 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, Rockville, Md. 20852.

The comment request comes after FDA deputy commissioner Michael Taylor told members of the Produce Traceability Initiative Leadership Council that the agency would take its lead on traceability from the produce industry.

Teri Miller, produce category manager for Salisbury, N.C.-based Food Lion LLC and a member of the PTI's Implementation Working Group, said she takes the FDA at its word because of its response to industry comments filed about the Bioterrorism Act and country of origin labeling.

"I've seen the FDA truly consider and address those comments that were reasonable and legitimate. If the industry, doesn't submit comments, then we all risk regulations that are burdensome and may not provide the benefit intended," Miller said May 24.

The Food Safety Modernization Act required the FDA to issue guidance regarding hazard analysis and preventive controls. In its request for comments the agency stated it plans to "leverage, where appropriate, the best practices for hazards and controls identified by the food and feed industries for specific types of food and specific methods to manufacture, process, pack, and hold food."

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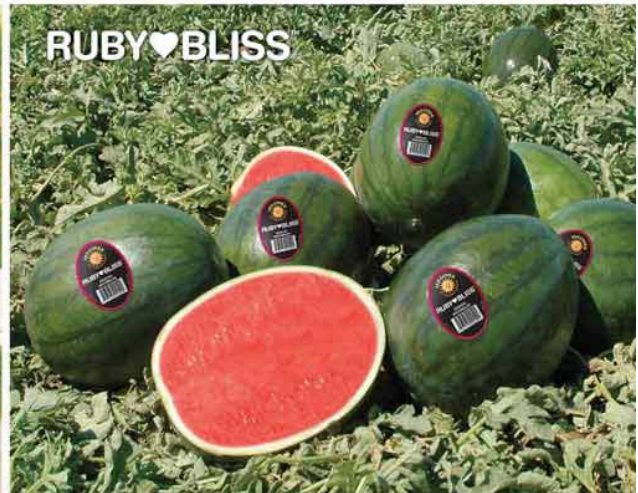


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