

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **MENDELSON INTRODUCES MENU LABELING LEGISLATION**

(Washington, DC) Today, Councilmember Phil Mendelson (D, At-Large) was joined by Councilmember Barry in introducing the Menu Education and Labeling (MEAL) Act of 2007. The bill would require fast food and other chain restaurants in the District of Columbia with 10 or more locations nationwide to list on their menus the calorie, saturated and trans fat, carbohydrates, and sodium contents of standard items. It would also impose penalties for establishments that fail to follow the law.

“Obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related diseases are an important public health problem. They shorten the lifespan of too many of our citizens, and exact an enormous share of our health-care dollars,” said Mendelson. “Menu labeling is a simple fix. It enables consumers to make informed decisions.”

According to USDA studies, Americans spend 46% of their food dollars on away-from-home foods, up from 26% in 1970. The MEAL Act would apply to regular menu items only, and would only apply to chain restaurants. 20 Cities and states across the country are considering menu labeling legislation. The New York City Board of Health, with the support of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, has mandated that chain restaurants in the Big Apple list calories on menus and menu boards starting this summer.

“When Congress moved to mandate nutritional information on packaged foods back in the 1970’s, there was opposition by those who thought it was burdensome and unnecessary,” acknowledged Mendelson. “But now, you cannot go down an isle at your local grocery store without seeing folks comparing labels. We simply want to give restaurant-goers in the District the same option.”

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Currently serving in his third term as At-Large Councilmember, Phil Mendelson is also Chairman of the Council’s Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary. For more information, visit <http://dccouncil.us/mendelson/index.html>.

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# Chain Restaurants in the District of Columbia

*Restaurants in bold provide nutrition information on the Internet*

*[41 of 78 chains]*

7-Eleven (17)  
*Arby's (1)*  
*Au Bon Pain (15)*  
*Auntie Anne's Hand-Rolled Soft Pretzels (1)*  
*Baja Fresh Mexican Grill (2)*  
*Baskin-Robbins (5)*  
*Ben & Jerry's (7)*  
Benihana (1)  
Bertucci's Brick Oven Pizzeria (2)  
Blimpie Sub Salad (4)  
*Boston Market (1)*  
Buca di Beppo (1)  
*Burger King (6)*  
California Pizza Kitchen (1)  
The Capital Grille (1)  
*Caribou Coffee (8)*  
Checkers Drive-In (2)  
The Cheesecake Factory (1)  
*Chick-fil-A (4)*  
Chipotle Mexican Grill (7)  
Cinnabon (4)  
Cold Stone Creamery (1)  
*Cosi (12)*  
*Corner Bakery (6)*  
Daily Grill (2)  
Dean and DeLuca (1)  
*Denny's (1)*  
*Domino's Pizza (19)*  
*Dunkin' Donuts (4)*  
*Einstein Bros. Bagels (1)*  
ESPN Zone (1)  
Fuddruckers (2)  
Gordon Biersch Brewery and Restaurant (1)  
The Great Steak & Potato Company (2)  
Hard Rock Café (2)  
*Haagen-Dazs Café (3)*  
*Hardee's (1)*  
Hooters (1)  
Houlihans Restaurants (1)  
*Jamba Juice (1)*  
*Jerry's Subs & Pizza (2)*  
*Johnny Rockets (4)*  
Kelly's Cajun Grill (2)  
*KFC (9)*  
*Krispy Kreme (1)*  
LaMadelaine (2)  
Ledo Pizza (2)  
Legal Sea Foods (3)  
*Maggie Moo's Ice Cream & Treatery (3)*  
McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant (3)  
*McDonald's (33)*  
Melting Pot (1)  
Mimi's Café (1)  
Morton's, The Steakhouse (2)  
Mrs. Fields (1)  
*Papa John's Pizza (3)*  
Palm Restaurants (1)  
*Pizza Hut (5)*  
*Planet Hollywood (1)*  
*Popeyes Chicken and Biscuits (14)*  
*Potbelly Sandwich Works (8)*  
*Pretzelmaker (1)*  
*Qdoba Mexican Grill (1)*  
Quizno's Classic Subs (21)  
*Ruby Tuesday (2)*  
Ruth's Chris Steak House (3)  
*Sbarro (8)*  
*Schlotzsky's Deli (1)*  
Shula's Steak House (1)  
**Smoothie King (1)**  
Smith and Wollensky (1)  
*Starbucks Coffee Company (65)*  
*Subway (69)*  
*Taco Bell (5)*  
*TCBY (1)*  
T.G.I. Friday's (1)  
*Uno Chicago Grill (2)*  
*Wendy's (6)*

