

## **AAFCS Resolution: Human Exposure to Bisphenol A**

**W**hereas bisphenol A (BPA) is a chemical used in plastic bottles and the lining of metal food cans; and

**Whereas** BPA has been associated with health risks including reproductive system abnormalities, prostate cancer, obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and child asthma; and

**Whereas** thousands of products containing BPA are dumped in landfills each year and may potentially contaminate groundwater; and

**Whereas** an alternative to BPA exists; and

**Whereas** the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and other U.S. health agencies have pledged \$30 million toward research to clarify BPA's effects on environment, brain development, reproduction, and potential carcinogenicity; therefore

**Be it resolved** that the AAFCS support local, statewide, and national educational programs and policies: 1) that are designed to help individuals and families avoid exposure to BPA and 2) that encourage the banning of BPA in food packaging and other consumer products.

### **Rationale**

AAFCS founder Ellen Swallow Richards paved the way for food and consumer safety through research and educational efforts. The safety of BPA in food packing and other consumer products is uncertain.

In 2008, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that BPA was found in the urine of 93 percent of the 2,517 people sampled in the 2004 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey; the data is considered representative of exposures in the United States.

The Food and Drug Administration has recommended the public take steps to reduce exposure to BPA.

### **Impact statement**

AAFCS members have expertise in food safety and consumer protection matters. They have the capacity to bring potential safety hazards to the attention of communities, and to rally a grassroots effort to prevent unsafe goods from being consumed by individuals and families.

The existing technology and communication systems allow dissemination of this resolution and other resources related to this issue to AAFCS members and affiliated organizations at little to no financial cost.

Consumers look to Family and Consumer Sciences professionals to lead the way in food safety and care for the home.

### **Suggested Implementation Strategies**

- Use this resolution and rationale to build partnerships such as with the American Dietetics Association and media so research based information will be shared with the masses.
- Provide technical advice and assistance concerning BPA in food packaging in response to a written request by a governmental body or committee.
- Contact food and beverage companies to advocate the removal of BPA from food packaging such as canned foods and canning lids.
- Engage in public education discouraging the importation and production of unsafe products in the United States.
- Create a repository of educational resources, and develop a guide of ideas to help families prevent BPA in their diet.
- Encourage responsible decision making and public participation on issues surrounding BPA during the FDA's public comment period(s) at [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

### **Selected References**

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Submitted by the Alabama Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

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