



# FEDERATION OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS AND TRAVELERS - NEWS RELEASE -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Food Safety Overhaul Bill Approved by House Panel**

EDWARDSVILLE, IL, June 18, 2009 -A House committee has approved a new food safety overhaul bill.

The House Energy and Commerce panel approved the bill by voice vote on Wednesday. The panel's Chairman, Henry Waxman (D-CA), said he hopes the legislation will move swiftly to the floor and to passage.

Frank Lucas, Ranking Member of the House Agricultural Committee, expressed concern that the legislation -- as drafted -- would impose numerous burdens on producers and processors while doing virtually nothing to hold the FDA accountable for ensuring food safety. He says the proposal to expand FDA's authority to dictate farm practices is of particular concern. He believes the Ag Committee has jurisdiction over many of the elements of the measure and should have a voice in the process.

The bill, which was introduced on the heels of several high-profile outbreaks of food-borne illness, would expand food traceability requirements and allow the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to impose civil penalties for the first time in history. The bill would further allow the FDA to implement mandatory food quarantines. Currently food quarantines are done on a voluntary basis.

Additionally:

The bill would increase the frequency of inspections at certain food facilities, depending on the level of risk, and would require food facilities serving U.S. consumers to register with the FDA and pay annual fees. Critics of the bill fear that those fees would necessarily and inevitably be passed along to the consumer in the form of higher food costs.

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This news release is issued as a service of the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers (FACT). FACT was formed under the not-for-profit corporation laws of the District of Columbia in 1984, and currently serves more than 1 million consumers nationwide. Additional information on FACT may be found in the *Encyclopedia of Associations*, and by visiting the association's Web site ([www.usafact.org](http://www.usafact.org)). Informative, unbiased news bulletins are regularly disseminated by FACT to help its members remain current on matters which might seriously impact their lives. In addition to publishing consumer-related reports, the association provides more than 30 benefits for its members, ranging from [medical insurance](#) and [dental discounts](#) to [prescription drug savings](#), [scholarships](#) and [consumer information](#). FACT's administrative office is located at 318 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025.