



American Society for Nutrition
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May 2, 2011

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) commends the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) for developing the *Health and Sustainability Guidelines for Federal Concessions and Vending Operations*. ASN is the authoritative voice on nutrition, a professional scientific society dedicated to bringing together the world's top researchers, clinical nutritionists and industry to advance our knowledge and application of nutrition to promote human health. Established in 1928, ASN is also publisher of *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition (AJCN)*, *The Journal of Nutrition (JN)* and *Advances in Nutrition*. ASN advances excellence in research and practice through its publications, education, public affairs and membership programs.

The *Health and Sustainability Guidelines for Federal Concessions and Vending Operations* demonstrate HHS' commitment to healthful and sustainable living, and serves as an excellent model for other organizations throughout the U.S. to follow. With over 4,000 members working throughout academia, government and industry to help all Americans to live longer, healthier and more productive lives, ASN is highly supportive of these guidelines which are an important step forward in obesity prevention. The guidelines show HHS employees how to make healthy and sustainable choices which will lower their energy intake when purchasing food at vending machines and in cafeterias. ASN is hopeful that the guidelines will serve as a model for other organizations across the U.S. so that all Americans have access to information and meal choices that allow them to consume diets aligned with the *2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and that protect against obesity and other chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and some forms of cancer.

Thank you once again for developing these important guidelines, which allow Americans to be healthier and more sustainable. ASN looks forward to the opportunity to assist HHS in developing and implementing nutrition-related guidelines, and in any other way deemed appropriate. Please contact Sarah Ohlhorst, MS, RD, Director of Government Relations, if ASN may provide further assistance. She can be reached at 301.634.7281 or sohlhorst@nutrition.org.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Russell, MD
President, American Society for Nutrition