



CLAY COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



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To: Brenda Bacon
Chair, Food Code Adoption Workgroup
Collaborative Representative, Conference for Food Protection

From: Gary Zaborac
Director of Public Health
Clay County Public Health Center

Re: Letter of Support

The Clay County Public Health Center is pleased to support and encourage the adoption of the most recent version of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's model Food Code by all retail food regulatory programs.

Benefits of unified adherence to the current model FDA Food Code by retail food regulatory entities include:

- Adopting sound, uniform procedures with input from food regulatory agencies, industry, academia, and professional organizations through the Conference of Food Protection collaborative process.
- Food industry that are crossing jurisdictional boundaries can be familiar with the same food code references.
- Establishment of a more standardized approach to food safety inspections of retail food facilities.
- Ensuring that the food facility's person in charge is a certified food protection manager knowledgeable with food safety practices and foodborne illness prevention.
- Provides effective controls as a means of reducing the risks of foodborne illnesses within retail food facilities.
- Makes the process for updating the Food Code at the local level more efficient.

Staying current with the Food Code is the choice to embrace the best scientific practice available as the tools to serve our mission of protecting our communities from foodborne illness that can potentially cause devastating health consequences and financial losses.

Clay County Public Health Center encourages all retail food regulatory organizations to join us in these efforts in supporting the timely adoption of the most recent version of the model FDA Food Code. We also offer our support to jurisdictions who wish to adopt the Code and are unfamiliar with navigating the process.

Gary Zaborac
Director of Public Health
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The mission of the Clay County Public Health Center is to deliver the essential public health services of prevention, promotion, and protection to the communities of Clay County.