

Delivered on the Floor of the House during consideration of H. R. 4167, National Uniformity for Food Act, March 2, 2006

Sanford Bishop (D-GA)

I rise in support of H.R. 4167, the National Uniformity for Food Act. If enacted this important legislation would set much needed national standards for food safety and put an end to the contradictory standards that exist across many states. This is important given consumers have a right to expect the same scientifically based safety standards everywhere in the United States. By establishing a single national system based on comprehensive science-based standards, consumers and businesses will be clear about what is safe what is permissible and what needs to be labeled. This is an opportunity to bolster consumer confidence. The legislation would ensure that the FDA incorporates the best safety and warning practices of states and allows states to continue to carry out sanitation inspections and enforcement. It would create a process by which states could petition the FDA to adopt their own regulations as the national start or seek an exemption from national uniformity. A state's requirements would remain in effect while the FDA considers the state's petition. And where no federal requirement exists, states could proceed pursuant to their own standards. HR 4167 is good commonsense legislation. This is greatly needed and I urge my colleagues to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.