

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 10

BY AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

8 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

11 WHEREAS, the health and well-being of Idaho's children is a matter of the highest priority for the State of Idaho; and

13 WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program serve millions of meals daily to American schoolchildren, including thousands of Idaho students; and

16 WHEREAS, six artificial sweeteners are currently approved by the United State Food and Drug Administration for use in food and beverages, which are aspartame, acesulfame potassium, advantame, neotame, saccharin, and sucralose; and

20 WHEREAS, sufficient long-term research does not exist regarding the impacts of artificial sweeteners on children's development, metabolism, and dietary habits, warranting a precautionary approach to the use of artificial sweeteners in school nutrition programs; and

24 WHEREAS, Idaho ranks second in the nation for the production of sugar beets and is home to Amalgamated Sugar Company, the second-largest sugar beet processor in the United States; and

27 WHEREAS, the sugar beet industry contributes more than one billion dollars annually to Idaho's economy and supports thousands of jobs across rural communities, serving as a cornerstone of the state's agricultural sector; and

31 WHEREAS, real sugar produced from Idaho sugar beets is a natural, minimally processed ingredient that provides a safe, stable, and locally sourced sweetener for food manufacturers and consumers alike; and

34 WHEREAS, supporting the use of real sugar in school nutrition programs aligns with Idaho's values of agricultural sustainability, economic self-reliance, and transparency in food labeling; and

37 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the federal government to ensure that the meals served to children in public schools are free from artificial sweeteners and based on wholesome, natural ingredients.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature respectfully urges the President of the United States, members of the United States Congress, the

1 Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Secretary
2 of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to prohibit
3 the inclusion of artificial sweeteners, specifically aspartame, acesulfame
4 potassium, advantame, neotame, saccharin, and sucralose, in all school meal
5 programs administered under federal law.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature supports the use
7 of real sugar as a natural and locally produced alternative to artificial
8 sweeteners in school meal programs.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Represen-
10 tatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of
11 this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the
12 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, the con-
13 gressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the
14 United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture,
15 and the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Ser-
16 vices.