Whereas, American consumers currently must contend with as many as a dozen different expiration date label designations on foods, medications and other perishable products, resulting in confusion and waste; and

Whereas, Consumers generally interpret date labels as an indication that food is no longer safe to eat, though the label may actually only represent the manufacturer’s guess at its peak quality; and

Whereas, The largest grocery industry trade associations have introduced guidelines urging manufacturers to use only the standardized safety designation “use by” and the quality descriptor “best if used by” for product date labels; and

Whereas, Voluntary guidelines will not resolve the associated consumer confusion (whether accidental or intentional) and any qualitative date label will continue to promote the waste of safe food and products; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association endorse federal standardization of date labels on foods and other products to ensure that they address safety concerns. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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