



Resolution: Modernizing the Food Safety System and Protecting the Public's Health

Ratified: November 21, 2014

WHEREAS, foodborne illness is a common, costly—yet preventable—public health problem; and

WHEREAS, each year, 1 in 6 Americans gets sick by consuming contaminated foods or beverages; and

WHEREAS, each year, infections from deadly pathogens like *Salmonella*, *E. coli* and *Listeria* lead to an estimated 48 million illnesses and 3,000 deaths in the U.S. – with an annual cost of \$70 billion; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Congress enacted the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) to protect the public's health, modernizing the U.S. food safety system for the first time in 70 years and requiring the implementation of science-based standards to help growers and producers prevent foodborne illness at every point along the food supply chain; and

WHEREAS, in prior years, Congress has wisely invested in efforts to implement FSMA and modernize the U.S. food safety system; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Food and Drug Administration needs at least 50 million additional funding to retain and hire more scientific experts; increase the number of food safety inspections to meet the targets mandated in FSMA, and provide adequate training on the rules to all current and future inspectors; modernize its information technology infrastructure; and bolster its laboratory capability; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, members of the National Foundation of Women Legislative (NFWL) recognize the vital importance of modernizing the U.S. food safety system and protecting the public's health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NFWL urges Congress to provide sufficient funding to support the implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).