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WLF Questions Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee's Nutritional Guidelines Report

(U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Human Services)

“This report does a disservice to public health. Its recommendations, which misconstrue consumer opinion, are offered by a group of hand-picked academics whose views of ‘healthy eating’—not coincidentally—mirror the politicized food goals of the White House.”—Glenn Lammi, WLF Chief Counsel for Legal Studies

WASHINGTON, DC—Washington Legal Foundation (WLF) expressed disappointment regarding the nutritional guidelines report that the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) issued today to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). HHS and USDA will use the report as the basis for the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which the agencies release every five years.

The DGAC’s report embraces and advances food nanny activists’ efforts to demonize foods and food ingredients they disfavor, such as sugar, salt, meat, and caffeine, while providing only scant amounts of actual nutrition advice for consumers. A February 13, 2015 *WLF Counsel’s Advisory*, “Public Should Scrutinize Federal Dietary Guidelines’ Support for New Regulations,” explains how the DGAC’s conclusions on issues such as “added sugars” are designed to influence the Obama Administration’s “ideologically-charged nutrition policy agenda.” As that piece points out, the DGAC’s detour into policymaking recommendations conflicts with the purpose and intent of the *National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990*, which governs the development of the Nutrition Guidelines.

In response to the report, WLF released the following statement by Glenn Lammi, WLF’s Chief Counsel for Legal Studies, who is also available for further comment:

“This report does a disservice to public health. Its recommendations, which misconstrue consumer opinion, are offered by a group of hand-picked academics whose views of ‘healthy eating’—not coincidentally—mirror the politicized food goals of the White House. HHS and USDA have a duty to reject this overt politicization of nutrition science and resist wielding the Guidelines as an ideological weapon to coerce Americans’ food purchasing and consumption decisions.”

WLF (www.wlf.org) is a public interest law firm and policy center that works to preserve and defend America’s free enterprise system by litigating, educating, and advocating for free market principles, a limited and accountable government, individual and business civil liberties, and the rule of law. WLF’s Eating Away Our Freedoms project (www.EatingAwayOurFreedoms.org) provides timely information and insightful analysis that both elevates and balances the debate over Americans’ freedom to choose. WLF is a national public interest law firm and policy center that regularly advocates in defense of free enterprise and against civil litigation rules that threaten to raise costs for consumers.