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WLF Comments Criticize Process and Substance of Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee's Report

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WASHINGTON, DC—Washington Legal Foundation (WLF) filed comments today with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee’s (DGAC) Scientific Report. The two agencies empaneled the DGAC to assist in the creation of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

WLF’s comments criticize the DGAC for taking a dramatic detour into policymaking and away from its statutory duty to make evidence-based nutrition recommendations to HHS and USDA. The DGAC needlessly singles out certain foods and ingredients, such as “added sugar” and lean meat, for particular scorn. WLF urges the Secretaries of HHS and USDA to reject the policy-oriented recommendations on numerous grounds, including violations of the federal law governing the Dietary Guidelines’ creation and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which requires meetings to be held in public and the membership of bodies like DGAC to be “fairly balanced.”

After filing its comments, WLF released the following statement from Chief Counsel for Legal Studies Glenn Lammi:

“Instead of offering evidence-based nutrition guidance, the 2015 DGAC lards its Scientific Report with activist policy suggestions and invents new dietary bogeymen. The Committee’s suggestions violate several federal laws, and must be rejected by the 2015 Dietary Guidelines’ ultimate drafters—HHS and USDA. Both agencies have a duty to reject many of the Scientific Report’s recommendations to ensure the 2015 Dietary Guidelines assist the public, and not just the activists who want to eat away our freedoms.”

WLF is a national, public-interest law firm and policy center. 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.