

Butler, Jennie C

From: NALOSdeSOL@aol.com
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2001 5:25 PM
To: FDAockets@oc.fda.gov
Subject: (no subject)

Dear Sir or Ms.

I am interested in attending the FDA meeting August 13, on Food Allergen Labeling.

My name is Barbara A. Solan, RN, BSN 382 Lexington Dr.

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I am an RN, but not currently employed. I previously was employed for 12 years as a Commissioned Officer (Lt. Commander) in the US Public Health Service, having worked in both Indian Health Service and at the National Institutes of Health. I have a 11 ½ year old asthmatic, food anaphylactic daughter, as well as a daughter who has oral allergy syndrome.

I am a member of the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN) and Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) (lay allergy organizations), and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (a professional organization representing allergy professionals), but am speaking independently, as a mother with 11 years experience living/managing my daughters food anaphylaxis, and as a professional nurse, who has always had an interest in public health. I have not received funding from any organization to attend this meeting.

I would like to speak. I am in favor of MANDATORY, not voluntary, bolded, plain source, simple English language for the major 8 eight food allergens, along the lines that General Mills uses. I think that labeling formatting needs to be uniform, and that the color contrasts, materials, and font size used in packaging need to be REASONABLE and facilitate ease of reading. This is critical information for 5-6 million American food allergic citizens, and we read labels religiously, and many many times, every day, every year. Our family, and in particular, my food anaphylactic daughter, does not find "may contain..." statements helpful, as they have been used to excess, and do not aid in our decision making. I think that such statements can be dangerous to food allergic teens. Statements such as "made on shared equipment that uses peanuts", however, does provide us with useful information for decision making. I do not want those type of statements to be the caveat that covers for poor manufacturing practices. I would be even more delighted to see dedicated lines for the most LETHAL food allergens, according to the research studies, (peanuts, treenuts, and

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shellfish) wherever possible. I do think that flavorings, spices, and colors ingredients need to be declared, and that exemption needs to be updated, based on research that shows that people can be allergic to those substances. I do not know anything about incidental additives, and have no comments, but look forward to learning more about this. I would like to address how the law addresses phenylalanine on diet soda for those living with PKU, and what the # of people diagnosed with PKU in comparison to food allergies, as well as the difference in potential outcomes. Until these issues are FDA mandated, and not voluntary, this will remain a serious public health health problem.

Thank you so much for offering the public the chance to speak and address these important issues.

Regards,
Barbara A. Solan