



**New York Farm Bureau**

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# **MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION**

**Senate Bill 4644 (Senator Biaggi)/ Assembly Bill 5682 (Assemblymember Gottfried)**

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, IN RELATION TO ENACTING THE HEALTHY FOOD SERVICE GUIDELINES FOR NEW YORK ACT OF 2021**

**Date: 5/18/2021**

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New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, respectfully requests your opposition to this legislation. This bill would require the development of New York State food standards which would apply to all food and beverage products purchased by state agencies, programs, and institutions.

In 2020, the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (HHS) released the final 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) which sets the food and nutrition guidelines for the United States. These guidelines are updated every five years and provide science-based advice on what to eat and drink to promote health, help reduce risk of chronic disease, and meet nutrient needs. While this bill would require the state food standards to be consistent with the current DGA, the bill language prioritizes the consumption of plant-based whole foods. The current DGA does not prioritize plant-based food and instead focuses on ensuring that individuals are eating nutrient-dense foods which includes meats, dairy, and proteins. While NYFB supports the requirement that the state food standards recommend the purchase of locally grown New York State food products, it is important that any state food standards include all nutrient-dense food and beverage products.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau requests your opposition of this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.