

## Trump Attacks on Public Protections and Common-Sense Transparency Measures Hurt American Consumers and the U.S. Economy

While the President may claim that undoing public safeguards promotes economic growth, the truth is that the costs and benefits of all major rules are thoroughly vetted before the rules go into effect. Most major consumer protection and nutrition rules produce massive benefits, with estimates of the net benefits (benefits minus costs) often measured in the billions.

Deregulation can harm consumers and the economy. That is what has happened over the past eight months, as Trump and his appointees bring their deregulatory agendas to federal agencies and create needless and damaging chaos in major programs.

Trump [tried to slash funding](#) to the federal agencies that protect public health, jeopardizing vital work that includes basic research, food safety inspections, and tracking the rising threat of antimicrobial resistance. His agency appointees have delayed and undermined popular protections that inform and benefit American families, making it harder for businesses to plan for the future. These changes exact a cost upon individual consumers and the broader economy.

### *Deregulation at the Food and Drug Administration*

- **Transparency When Eating Out.** Trump's FDA [delayed](#) protections requiring clear, consistent calorie and nutrition labeling in chain restaurants, supermarkets, and convenience stores, *just one day before they were set to go into effect*. The new information [was previously estimated by the FDA to yield \\$9.2 billion](#) in benefits to the American economy over 20 years by preventing obesity-related diseases. An [independent economic analysis](#) found that the administration's one-year delay costs consumers \$15 in increased health care costs and loss of productivity for every \$1 saved by food service establishments. Moreover, the food service industry, [including all of the top 50 restaurant chains](#), has already made the initial investments needed to comply with the rule (which were expected to cost \$312-482 million [by FDA's estimate](#)).
- **Nutrition Facts.** The FDA has signaled it will delay implementation of key changes to the Nutrition Facts Panel on packaged foods. The new labels were estimated by the FDA to benefit consumers by [\\$78 billion over 20 years \(compared to a cost of \\$4.6 billion\)](#), and many companies [have already invested in the changes \(with changes to at least 8,000 products\)](#). The [18 month proposed delay](#) will deny consumers information they need to make decisions, and throws the food industry needlessly into disarray.

### *Deregulation at the US Department of Agriculture*

- **School Nutrition.** Trump's appointee to lead the USDA, Sonny Perdue, has announced weakening school meal requirements. The announcement, made through a [proclamation](#) that was sparse on details, rolls back protections designed to ensure kids get more whole grains and less salt. Ninety-nine percent of school districts have already invested resources to comply with these requirements, which [have been estimated to prevent 1.8 million cases of childhood obesity by 2025](#).