



California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CPEHN Applauds Governor Signing Legislation Banning Trans Fats
And Urges Him to Address Neighborhood Conditions that Cause Obesity**

Today Governor Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 97 which will ban trans fats in California, legislation that is strongly supported by the California Pan Ethnic Health Network. AB 97 (Mendoza) would phase out artificial trans fat in restaurants and other food-service facilities in California by the end of 2011.

“Our communities have the most to gain from this policy,” said Ellen Wu, Executive Director of the CPEHN, a co-sponsor of legislation in 2005, SB 12 (Escutia), that banned the sale of junk food in schools.

Communities of color are more likely to be obese than whites, and a survey from the California Health Interview Survey shows that adolescents of color are more than twice as likely to report consuming fast food as their white counterparts, and thus are more likely to be exposed to trans fats and unhealthy foods. Nearly two in three African American, Latinos, and Native Americans are overweight or obese. Nearly one-third of Asian adults are overweight.

“This is a good first step, and we hope the Governor will follow it up by committing to build healthy communities,” Ms. Wu added. During the health care reform debates of 2007, CPEHN supported the Governor’s proposed community makeovers program, which would have improved the neighborhood conditions that are the real source of the obesity epidemic, such as ensuring people have access to safe places to engage in physical activity, and access to affordable, nutritious foods. “The Governor needs to revive the community makeovers program to make the biggest difference in this epidemic,” Ms. Wu said.

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The California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN) works to ensure that all Californians have access to quality health care and can live healthy lives. For more information on CPEHN please visit our website at: www.cpehn.org.