



**Testimony regarding Bill 1-22, Eating and Drinking Establishments – Healthy Meals for Children
February 1, 2022**

As the Council considers legislation establishing nutrition and beverage standards in children's meals, McDonald's is pleased to share its own work to help increase families' access to balanced options, particularly as it relates to our iconic Happy Meal. Starting in 2012, we automatically included Apple Slices in every Happy Meal and since then, we've continued to evolve the available menu items (see below). As a result of these changes, McDonald's USA Happy Meal offerings meet nearly all criteria established by Bill 1-22. We look forward to working with the Council to craft a workable and effective children's meals policy for Montgomery County.

In 2013, McDonald's joined forces with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation on a set of commitments to help increase families' access to fruit, vegetables, low-fat dairy and water in 20 major markets by the end of 2020. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation works to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity and to empower kids to develop lifelong, balanced habits. In 2019, we announced that a majority of the 20 major markets met the commitments, including the US. The first of those commitments was to feature only water, milk and juice on Happy Meal menu boards and in ads directed to children. As such, soda was removed from the Happy Meal section of U.S. menu boards in 2013.

In 2016, McDonald's USA announced its popular Chicken McNuggets, and a Happy Meal entrée choice, contained no artificial preservatives. McDonald's USA's Chicken McNuggets contain, no artificial flavors, no added colors from artificial sources and are made with white meat chicken.

In December 2017, McDonald's USA completed the transition to Honest Kids® Appley Ever After® organic juice drink, which has less calories and half the total sugar than the prior 100% apple juice served in the U.S. This apple juice drink consists of 100% juice and water (diluted) and other ingredients.

In February 2018, McDonald's announced five *new* Global Happy Meal Goals with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, including a goal establishing Global Happy Meal Nutrition Criteria.

In September 2018, McDonald's USA announced its seven classic burgers, including the hamburger—an entrée option in the Happy Meal, have no artificial preservatives, no artificial flavors and no added colors from artificial sources. The pickle contains an artificial preservative, and customers are able to skip it if they prefer.

In the Fall of 2018, bottled water was added to U.S. Happy Meal menu boards as a beverage option.

As of March 2020, a reformulated Reduced Sugar* Low Fat Chocolate Milks is available in restaurants and with Happy Meals. (*14g of sugar vs. avg. 22g at leading Quick Service Restaurants). McDonald's USA also offers a 1% low fat milk jug.

Contact: Phil Cronin, Government Relations Manager at philip.cronin@us.mcd.com or 410.949.7418