

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 214

BY REPRESENTATIVE KERNER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., to ban imported seafood until proper testing and inspections can be performed.

WHEREAS, about eighty percent of estimated United States consumption of seafood comes from abroad, primarily from Canada, Chile, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, per capita consumption of seafood products, including canned, fresh, frozen, and cured, reached an estimated twenty pounds per person in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration is responsible for all fish and fishery products entering the United States and is tasked with identifying immediate or potential threats and protecting public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, shrimp are one of the most frequently purchased types of seafood from both domestic and imported sources; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University School of Renewable Natural Resources published a 2020 paper titled "Determination of Sulfite and Antimicrobial Residue in Imported Shrimp to the USA", which presented findings from a study of shrimp imported from India, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Bangladesh, and Ecuador and purchased from retail stores in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a screening of these shrimp for sulfites and residues from antimicrobial drugs found the following: (1) five percent of the shrimp contained malachite green, (2) seven percent contained oxytetracycline, (3) seventeen percent contained fluoroquinolone, and (4) seventy percent contained nitrofurantoin, all of which have been banned by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in domestic aquaculture operations; and

WHEREAS, although the FDA requires that food products exposed to sulfites must include a label with a statement about the presence of sulfites, of the forty-three percent of these locally purchased shrimp found to contain sulfites, not one package complied with this labeling requirement; and

WHEREAS, this study makes clear that there are deficiencies in the current testing and inspecting processes and those deficiencies lead to potential harm to Americans; and

WHEREAS, the FDA's seafood safety program is governed by its Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point regulations, which address food safety management through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material production and procurement and handling to manufacturing, distribution, and consumption of the finished product; and

WHEREAS, the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., has stated that his goal of "Making America Healthy Again" will include examining the safety and quality of the food Americans are consuming.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to ban imported seafood until proper testing and inspections can be performed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES