



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

INEFFECTIVE REGULATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT OF FOOD SAFETY MAY DIMINISHED HEALTH AND RESULT IN DISABILITY

The public health system that is to protect health of people in America from unhealthy foods needs effective, legislation, regulation, oversight and enforcement.

A congressional briefing was held on “Fixing Food Safety” (Protecting America’s Food Supply from Farm-to-Fork). Congressional staff and advocates interested in the public health issue of food safety attended the briefing.

Summary

There are approximately 76 million people in America who are sickened by food borne disease each year and there are an estimated 325,000 hospitalizations. Medical costs and lost productivity due to food borne illnesses are estimated to cost \$44 billion annually. Thus, food safety is a major public health issue. The Congressional briefing provided an in depth analysis of legislative, and administrative status of programs for food safety. It was concluded there is a fractionized government high-risk program that is inconsistently administered, which needs legislative and regulatory reform.

Disability Prevention Issues

Ineffective legislation, regulation, oversight and enforcement of food safety may diminish health of many people in America that could lead to disability. There are obstacles to government regulatory functions for food safety to protect people in America from diminished health. Some of these regulatory functions are, coordination and lack of resources, outdated policies and limited federal state and local coordination. Inadequate implementation of the public health functions for food safety policies generalizes to many public health operations that are to serve the U.S. public’s health.

Intervention

A letter was sent to the keynote speaker of the forum that expressed concern for effective, legislation, regulation, oversight and enforcement of food safety and its economic and health consequences with respect to disability prevention.

Recommendation

The public health system that is to protect health from unhealthy foods needs effective, legislation, regulation, oversight and enforcement.