'May Contains' Resolution

WHEREAS: According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergies are greatly increasing in number and severity, and hospitalizations due to severe reactions are increasing; and

WHEREAS: Food allergy reactions may include hives, tingling or itchy sensation in the mouth, swelling of the throat, face, tongue, or lips, gastrointestinal symptoms, difficulty breathing, loss of consciousness, and even death; and

WHEREAS: Epinephrine - a drug comparable to the adrenaline produced by the body - is the only medication that can counteract the symptoms of severe allergic reactions -called anaphylaxis -if given promptly; and

WHEREAS: More than 200,000 Minnesotans have food allergies, and the number of Minnesota elementary school students affected by food allergies has nearly doubled, to more than 60,000; and

WHEREAS: At least 170 foods have been cited in medical literature to have caused anaphylaxis; and

WHEREAS: Ninety percent of all food allergy reactions in the United States are caused by eight major allergens: **milk, egg, fish** (freshwater or saltwater finfish such as, but not limited to bass, cod, flounder, or tuna), **crustacean shellfish** (such as, but not limited crab, lobster, or shrimp), **tree nuts** (such as, but not limited to almond, filbert/hazelnuts, lychee, pecans, or walnuts), **wheat, peanuts, and soybeans**; and

WHEREAS: Managing food allergies is a challenge for cafeterias, restaurants, schools, and individuals; and

WHEREAS: There are over thirty versions of 'may contain' or 'manufactured in a facility' or 'manufactured on equipment' statements on manufactured products sold in the United States; and

WHEREAS: 'May contain' statements and 'manufactured in a facility' statements are unclear in conveying allergenic danger;

THEREFORE, be it resolved: that the US Food and Drug Administration will create uniform phrasing for 'may contain', 'manufactured in a facility', 'manufactured on equipment' statements, and will direct manufacturers to use the uniform statements.