

Essay

As obesity becomes the number one health risk in the United States, the Federal Government may place taxes on high fat content and high sugar foods. I believe that a tax should not be placed on these foods. The Federal Government is targeting a specific group of people by taxing these consumers. The government already unfairly taxes tobacco products. Tobacco products are clearly labeled with the health risks, so consumers know what the product entails and the government goes further by enacting taxes on it. This only discriminates against the tobacco buyers. The same discrimination would take place if the government decides to tax high sugar foods. There are several reasons why the government should not tax foods with high sugar and fat content. Taxing a specific food and group of people who consume the food hinders their personal freedom, the government would not know where to draw the line with taxing unhealthy foods, and people will not stop consuming food with high sugar because healthy foods are even more expensive.

People who choose to consume foods with high sugar and fat know the risks involved, but they still have a right to choose what they eat. Taxing this genre of food hinders people's choices of what they eat. It is more important to educate people about the harmful effects of eating an excess of unhealthy foods with high fat and sugar but the government should not tax them. The government should not have the right to decide what people can and cannot eat. Furthermore, the government will not know where to stop on taxing unhealthy foods.

If the government taxes foods with high sugar and fat, than do they continue and tax all unhealthy foods? The government will not know where to draw the line on taxing

unhealthy foods. Will the government decide to tax all unhealthy foods including red meats and soft drinks? It is not the responsibility of the government to tax every unhealthy food available. Americans need to be educated about healthy food choices and should have the freedom to make these decisions without government interference. Education is the best way to limit unhealthy food consumption in the United States. Money would be better spent towards educating people on the harmful effects because ultimately the people have the right to choose what they eat and drink. America was founded on the principals of freedom, which includes the freedom to choose. Also, if the government taxes unhealthy foods it will not persuade Americans to stop consuming all foods with high sugar and fat.

The government would tax foods with high sugar and fat with the sole purpose of eliminating those foods from the diets of Americans, like they did with tobacco. However, statistically, people still chose to use tobacco products. It is important to allow Americans the freedom to choose what they want to eat and drink. For citizens of lower income, their meals come from foods with high sugar and fat because these are the cheapest foods; by taxing these foods the government is putting low-income people at a disadvantage. Also, some people actually need foods with high fat and high sugar. Cancer patients going through chemo often require fatty foods and diabetics often need sugary foods. It is not appropriate that the government punish these people by taxing the foods they need. A tax on foods with high sugar and high fat content should not be enacted by the government. The people of the United States have a right to choose what they eat and drink because they are aware of the health risks associated with foods of

high fat and sugar. The government should not approve a tax on high-sugar and high- fat foods.