

RESOLUTION #44

Irradiated Meat

Submitted by: North Babylon 70

1 Whereas, federal law does not require labeling of irradiated food served in schools so that
2 parents may not know of the use of such a product; and

3 Whereas, children most likely eat food purchased through school lunch programs are
4 from lower-income families; and

5 Whereas, studies have shown that some foods can lose up to 95% of their vitamin con-
6 tent when irradiated; and

7 Whereas, irradiation destroys fewer bacteria than does proper cooking and is ineffective
8 against prions, the infectious proteins thought to cause mad-cow disease; and

9 Whereas, irradiation could appreciably reduce food-borne illnesses but does not eliminate
10 food-borne outbreaks caused by food preparers' poor hygiene; and

11 Whereas, scientists have known that irradiation causes the formation of chemical byprod-
12 ucts which were recently shown to promote cancer-development process in rats; and

13 Whereas, there is a lack of research on the potential health effects of feeding irradiated
14 foods to children, who are more susceptible than adults to adverse effects of consuming
15 toxic substances; and

16 Whereas, the environment is a nationwide concern, Radioactive cobalt-60, produced by a
17 nuclear reaction, is used to irradiate food; and

18 Whereas, irradiation facilities use pelletized isotopes which pose risks of nuclear acci-
19 dents to nearby communities nationwide and these facilities are small and minimally regu-
20 lated; and

21 Whereas, a *Consumer Reports* study concluded "there is no reason to buy irradiated meat
22 if you cook meat thoroughly;" therefore be it

23 Resolved, that NYSUT support delaying the use of irradiated meat in school food pro-
24 grams until the long-term effects on children of consuming irradiated meat have been stud-
25 ied and documented; and be it further

26 Resolved, that NYSUT support the delay in serving irradiated foods in school lunch pro-
27 grams until parents and guardians can receive factual, accurate and current information; and
28 be it further

29 Resolved, that NYSUT support the notification to parents and guardians in those schools
30 where irradiated meat is or is intended to be used.

- ADOPTED
 ADOPTED AS AMENDED
 DEFEATED
 REFERRED TO THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 TABLED