

Obesity in our country is at an all-time high, and our government feels that the best way to solve this growing problem would be to limit the amount of sugary drinks that American citizens can purchase. In my opinion, this approach is flawed, and it would give the government unnecessary power to influence and interfere with our lives. If the government is given the power to regulate what citizens eat or drink, who's to say that anything is stopping them from regulating everything that we do, say, and see. The people of America are fortunate enough to live in a democratic society, and a free country. We have the right and responsibility to vote, freedom to do and say what we want, and to act how we want. If the government were allowed to control the amount of sugary drinks that we purchase, we might as well live in a totalitarian, government controlled society.

Discrimination and equality are both very important to American society, and in the act of limiting the amount of sugary drinks to be consumed by American people, in order to support healthy living, the government is discriminating against people who make unhealthy choices. Unfortunately, sugary beverages tend to be more affordable than those which are healthy for you. As a result, people buying their food on a budget may have no choice other than to make these unhealthy decisions. If the government were to regulate the amount of sugary beverages that Americans could buy, they would have to subsidize the price of healthier alternatives to these drinks. The overall process of limiting the amount of sugary beverages that Americans can consume would hurt the profit margins of not only the companies and businesses selling and producing sugary drinks, but also those supporting the sale of healthy beverages. Both

financially, and ethically, I believe that limiting the amount of sugary drinks that American citizens are allowed to buy is not the best way to combat America's obesity problem.

If the government wanted to combat diabetes or obesity within the U.S., they have the right idea, but it seems as though they are approaching it the wrong way. By promoting healthy eating and drinking habits in government funded programs and organizations, and educating the community about the disadvantages of drinking sugary beverages, the government would have a much better result. Since subsidization isn't necessary in this approach, the profit margins of the beverage businesses would remain intact, and the economy would continue on as usual. The government does play a substantial role in protecting its citizens, and obesity must be dealt with, but not through restrictive laws; not by regulating the amount of sugary drinks that the people of America may purchase. Rather than limiting these beverages, the government should be educating the public about the negative impact the sugary drinks may have on their lives and making healthy alternatives more affordable to those who have no other options.