



Connecticut Retail Merchants Association
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Timothy G. Phelan
President

Sen. Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, Sen. Linares, Rep. Betts and members of the Children's Committee,

My name is Tim Phelan and I am the President of the Ct Retail Merchants Association. CRMA is statewide trade association representing retailers throughout Connecticut. Our membership includes some of the world's largest retailers as well as the state's main street merchants. I am here before you today to testify in opposition to Raised Bill 6527, "An Act Concerning Genetically Engineered Baby Food".

CRMA has a very short and simple message as it relates to this bill. We are concerned that the issue of placing a Ct specific label of food products, in this case baby food would place our members on an Island with respect to the rest of the county and therefore place us as at a competitive disadvantage. No other state in the Union has such a labeling requirement and for Ct to be the only state would be a distinction that we would not look to have.

In addition to having Ct as the only state and along with that comes the raise in the cost of doing business. Supply chains would be impacted and some suppliers may choose to pass on those costs to us, which could lead to higher cost to consumers or some suppliers may simply choose not to sell some products in Ct.

Also, passage of 6527 could lead to confusion and questions on the part of customers that our employees are not necessarily trained to answer. And because our industry is direct to the customer or maybe better put, on the front lines dealing with customers we are ones that have to answer questions by consumers. Labels raise lots of questions and as this committee knows the GMO issue is full of unanswered and hotly debated questions.

We would respectfully ask the committee to consider the impact this bill would have on our industry not pass this bill.

Thank you.