

March 15, 2013

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF CT HB 6519

An Act Concerning Genetically Engineered Food

Submitted by:

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My name is Diana Reeves and I am a mother of 3, aged 18 to 25. My husband, my two daughters and I suffer from autoimmune disease and food allergies. We were all diagnosed around the same time. My youngest daughter was 14 when diagnosed. A freshman in college now, her food must be prepared separately, in an isolated area of the basement of the dining hall. Life is complicated for us. We can't eat out. I can no longer read a newspaper because every time I touch the GMO soy ink, I develop a blistering rash on my face. My children have grown up eating GMOs without my knowledge or consent. I have been reading studies that link GMOs and the chemicals they are sprayed with to a very long and very disturbing list of health problems, including autoimmune disease. Had I known then what I know now, I would have fed my family very differently.

I would like to share a few things I've learned that I find disturbing:

There has never been an independent, long term safety test done on any of the genetically modified foods in our food supply.

GMO Bt corn, which produces Bt Toxin pesticides in every cell, is an EPA Registered Pesticide. It kills insects when they bite into it. Food shouldn't kill. If this corn were on the shelf at Home Depot, you would see the pesticide registration numbers on the label. I've attached the EPA pesticide registration information to this testimony. Unfortunately, the EPA has no jurisdiction over food labeling so people are unknowingly eating toxic pesticides.

With the introduction of GMO soy, Monsanto successfully petitioned the FDA to increase the allowable residue level of their chemical herbicide, RoundUp on soy. The allowable level of Glyphosate, the active ingredient in RoundUp, was increased to a level THREE TIMES higher than the level that was previously determined to be safe. Glyphosate is systemically absorbed by the plant and does not wash off. Numerous lab studies have shown that glyphosate is genotoxic, endocrine disrupting, neurotoxic, is linked to inflammatory bowel disease and a carcinogen. Without a label, people are unknowingly eating glyphosate absorbed by GMO soy, as well as GMO corn, canola & sugarbeet.

The chemical companies that are genetically altering and patenting our food will tell you that America has been eating GMOs for almost 20 years and we are fine. But doctors now say that this is the first generation of children that are sicker

than their parents. America is not fine.

We should have the freedom to choose whether or not to consume these toxins and as such, it must be on the product label. Please vote yes on HB 6527 to label genetically engineered food. Without labeling, there is no accountability. Thank you.

Reference links:

<http://www.co.lake.ca.us/Assets/BOS/GE+Crops+Committee/6.+GM+Crops+and+Pesticide+Use.pdf>

<http://www.national-toxic-encephalopathy-foundation.org/roundup.pdf>

<http://www.epa.gov/oppbppd1/biopesticides/pips/smartstax-factsheet.pdf>