

March 15, 2013

**TESTIMONY FOR HB6519, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LABELING OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD**  
Whitney Riggs, 10-1 Arthur Drive, South Windsor CT

I would like to thank the public health committee for the opportunity to express my support in HB 6519. I am writing from the perspective of both a future mother, and someone who works for a Non-GMO food manufacturer.

I started to hear about genetically modified organisms (GMOS) a year and a half ago and was very concerned to learn that they were put into our food supply without our knowledge or approval. I went on to start GMO Free Hartford, a group with the mission of connecting with others to educate Connecticut residents on the subject. Since then, almost everyone I talk to has heard about this topic and also believes they have the right to know what is in our food. We feel it is a simple right to know what is being put in our food.

One of the major health risks associated with GMO's is infertility. As a young female that dreams of having children one day, this more than frightens me. I want to be able to eat GMO free food now, and without labeling I feel I do not have that right to choose. I would feel guilty if I was not able to build a family one day because of the foods I eat today.

For the last year and a half I have worked for Bakery On Main, a Non-GMO Project Verified Company located in East Hartford, Connecticut. While Bakery On Main is Non-GMO we are also the number one gluten free granola in the U.S. and are competitively priced in the market, and prove the labeling gmo/non-gmo foods are not going to increase prices for the consumer.

At the end of the day this is not a democratic or republican issue. This is a human issue. I have the right to know what is in my food.

Thank you.

Whitney Riggs