

To Whom This May Concern;

**I am writing in support of HB6519**, labeling of genetically modified foods (GMO).

I support the right to know as a nutrition professional, a public health professional, a caretaker, an experienced SNAP recipient and a consumer. Food is something that is necessary for everyone to consume, and I believe that everyone has the right to know where their food comes from and whether or not it was created in a lab using DNA of other organisms like e.coli bacteria.

A label, just like "Gluten Free" does not say anything harmful about the product, it simply identifies what it contains for the people who do not want to partake in consuming those foods, or perhaps want to consume those foods. A label does not tell a consumer what to do, the consumer makes that choice. But every consumer should be presented with the information to make their own educated decisions.

Furthermore, the long-term effects of GMO foods is uncertain, and it can't be known if there is no labeling. Does that make you feel comfortable? Does it make you think about what your children are eating? A parent should never have to feel worried that 20 years from now, the zucchinis they feed their children might actually be causing them physical harm. A vegetable is supposed to be nutritious (and often delicious) - it should never be potentially harmful.

Currently, the only way to know if a product is GMO or not is if it is organic. (There is an NGO that labels non-GMO, but it is an unofficial voluntary label for packaged products.) Organic items are significantly more expensive than conventional and many consumers cannot afford organic products. Income should not hinder a parents right to choose what kind of vegetables they are feeding their children.

I strongly urge you to support HB6519 and let us know what we are eating.

Thank you,

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