

HB 6519

I am a stay-@-home Mom to 2 small children ages 26mo & 4yrs. I have a Master's of Science Degree in Quality Systems Management and I left a successful career in order to raise my children. Both of my children were breastfed exclusively for the 1st 6 mo of life (and continued to BF until the age of 14 mo). When it came time to introduce solid foods I was so concerned about what I would put in their bodies. I made all my kids' baby food from scratch from organic produce. We bought ½ a grass-fed cow & chickens from a local farmer. We grow our own garden in the summer & we just joined a local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). I began reading & learning so much about our food system I was sickened.

The most sickening of all is Genetically Modified foods. I can read on the label if a food has artificial colors & flavors. I can read on a label if a food has trans-fats. I can read on a label if a food has high fructose corn syrup or sugar. I can read on a label if a food has common allergens. I can make an informed decision about my family's diet but I do not have the same liberty with GM foods.

The FDA has ruled that GM foods are "equivalent" to non-GM but this judgment is not based on scientific data. Long term studies have not been conducted by the FDA and other studies have linked numerous health issues to GM foods. I prefer not to "assume" they are safe – you know what happens when you assume... I deserve better, my children deserve better and the people of CT deserve better.

Labeling will not place undue burden on food companies – they have already responded to several recent food labeling requirements. Labels change all the time. If the food companies are concerned about a special label for CT then they can just label all their products with GM information. Of course they won't do this because they would consider it a deterrent to sales, I wonder why?!? Mostly because, given an informed choice, the majority of consumers reject GM foods.

To those who would argue this shouldn't be handled at the state level, I disagree. I think state by state we can send a message to national stage and I would love for CT to be on the forefront of this movement. I believe a ban on GM foods should be (and hopefully will be) handled at the national level but for now, let's label it Connecticut!

Regards,

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