

Testimony in Support of HB 6798 from Christine O'Day

I urge you to support HB 6798 to label GMOs found in baby food & baby formula.

I'm a Wilton resident, a Certified Holistic Health Coach and the Chairman & Co-Founder of ConnFACT (CT Families Against Chemical Trespass). I have done significant reading and given many educational events to audiences in CT about GMOs. While I'm very concerned about the long-term consumption of GMOs for all of us, I'm particularly concerned for babies and young children.

Children today are being born with unprecedented varieties and amounts of toxic chemicals in their systems and GMOs are only contributing to this growing problem. Even if one doesn't question the process of genetic engineering, there is no doubt that the significantly greater amounts of herbicides being used on GMO crops that are so prevalent in processed foods is a very serious problem.

While the Grocery Manufacturer's Association and others will say people have the option to buy organic, this is definitely not the solution, as most families cannot afford to buy organic products. If we have mandatory labeling, people who cannot afford organic products will be able to confidently purchase products that do not contain GMOs.

Every single time I do an educational event on GMOs in CT, I witness mothers or grandmothers in the audience with a range of reactions. Some are shocked & in disbelief when hearing about GMOs for the very first time and that we've unknowingly been consuming them in up to 80% of processed foods for the past 15 years. Others come to our events because they already know a little about GMOs but they want to know more about how they can avoid GMOs when shopping for their family. These mothers always have lots of questions and want to get the *Non GMO Shopping Guide** we provide. I've also seen grandmothers taking copious notes so they can tell the mother's of their grandchildren how to avoid GMOs. Everyone seems to be quite surprised by the fact that the very same companies who profit from GMOs are the ones doing voluntary short-term feeding studies to decide if they are safe for us to consume. Seemingly, they believe, like I used to believe, that there is a government agency such as the FDA overseeing this and making sure these products are safe BEFORE they are put on our shelves. I've had quite a few mother's tell me that they can't believe how much time they have to spend researching and trying to navigate their way around the grocery store to find food that is safe for their families.

Personally, it's hard for me to believe that we are still here having this conversation today about whether or not to label GMOs. We're feeding toxins as "nourishment" to our children and most polls show that 90% of the people in our democracy want GMOs labeled. So what are we waiting for? It's time to put politics and profits aside and require mandatory labeling of GMOs. I hope you will support HB 6798.

*http://action.responsibletechnology.org/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=7042