

Testimony of Ellen McCormick
before the
Children's Committee
February 24, 2015
Testimony in support of HB#6798
**An Act Requiring the Labeling of baby Food and Infant Formula Containing
Genetically Modified Organisms**

Good Morning/Good Afternoon, My name is Ellen McCormick and I am a mother of two and a grandmother of five grandchildren. I have spent 19 years reading and researching the issues surrounding GMOs. I would like to see HB 6798, An Act Requiring Labeling of Baby Food and Infant Formula Containing Genetically Engineered Organisms passed by this committee. This Act should be passed because we have the "right to know" what's in the food we feed our most vulnerable citizens, our infants and children.

Please watch this video of Dr. Don Huber, Professor Emeritus of Purdue University who has researched plant pathology for 50 years. He is speaking about the chemical glyphosate that is used in growing Genetically Modified food crops. Let this video preface my written testimony:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrq_1ovWIVE

What is in baby food and infant formulas that parents should know about and have the "right to know" about? Three of the main ingredients that are in many of these foods and that are genetically modified are corn, soy, and sugar beets.

Many parents still don't know what GMOs are and how they are grown. They are unaware of the dangers inherent in our food system, and in processed foods in general. They need the ingredient information on baby formula packaging to inform them of the fact that GMOs and the pesticides they are grown with are contained in those products. They have a "right to know" the products contained in these baby formulas might be dangerous to their child's health and will give them a choice as to whether or not to use that baby formula. Without this knowledge concerning GMOs they become part of an experiment without the consent to control what they are eating. It is well documented that glyphosate, which is the pesticide used for weed control on GMO crops, though not having acute toxicity, does have

chronic toxicity which mean it's insidious and takes a long time to show up as impaired health.

The article following refers to the risks of new plant breeding including genetic modification and the lack of a regulatory system to protect populations from a lack of meaningful regulations which allows these methods to sneak by government regulatory bodies and get introduced into the marketplace without any scrutiny of peer reviewed, independent and long term studies.

[Eckerstorfer et al., 2014](#)

Our Federal Government, charged with protecting its citizens, is not doing so. The USDA and the EPA seem only interested in protecting corporate interests. Our federal government does not test these products and merely allows corporations to tell them that a product is safe. They have not tested any of the ingredients on an independent, long-term, peer reviewed basis despite making claims to the contrary. When called upon during fraud trials to provide the safety studies on their products, they haven't been able to provide any. The studies of quality that have been done abroad and not provided by the corporations themselves or any of their partners, indicate many medical problems associated with GMO foods that show up after an extended period of time. The correlation of the introduction of GMO foods into the marketplace in 1996 matches the documented decline in health of our population. Don Huber, has stated that by 2025 one out of two children will have autism according to a peer-reviewed study from MIT. In that study there is a relationship established between GMO foods, glyphosate, autism and 34 other diseases.

[EU Regulators and Monsanto Exposed for Hiding Glyphosate Toxicity](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrq_1ovWIVE

<http://organicnz.org.nz/node/878>

[MIT study on glyphosate](#)

<http://www.mdpi.com/1099-4300/15/4/1416>

Glyphosate is the main ingredient in Roundup which is sprayed on GMO crops that are used in baby formulas. Roundup is also used as a dessicant on wheat to dry the wheat and to help the seeds dislodge from the plant. It, too, remains in the final product. Therefore any

GMO crops used in baby formulas and foods have glyphosate which creates chronic toxicity to us all. Why would we want to subject our most vulnerable infants and children, to these products?

Glyphosate has been detected in women's breast milk and urine at this point in our history. The industry said that would never happen and that these chemicals would be dissolved during the gastric digestion process. Unfortunately they lied again because it is being found in our urine as well as women's breast milk.

<http://wyebrookfarm.com/an-interview-with-jeffery-smith-and-dr-stephanie-seneff-glyphosate/>

Monsanto has lied about the safety of glyphosate in Roundup. This product has been deemed to be more dangerous than DDT. They have been sued for lying about the safety of their products and have lost those suits. However, last year while here testifying on another Bill it was reported to me that a Scott's rep told my friend that "glyphosate is so safe you can drink it." An incredible and very bold lie!!

[Death by multiple poisoning ,glyphosate and Roundup](#)

http://higherperspective.com/2015/01/gmo-study.html?utm_source=MAM

[http://www.naturalnews.com/048245 Monsanto fraudulent patents tomato plants.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/048245_Monsanto_fraudulent_patents_tomato_plants.html)

<http://science.naturalnews.>

From a report from the Institute of Science in Society in their Sept. 17, 2014 issue:

Monsanto found guilty of false claims about Roundup® in 1996 but still perpetrating them

We discovered that in 1996, the Attorney General of the State of New York, Consumer Frauds and Protection Bureau, Environmental Protection Bureau successfully brought a case against Monsanto with regard to: ***False advertising by Monsanto regarding the safety of Roundup® herbicide (glyphosate)*** [27].

Despite having been convicted of false claims in 1996, Monsanto repeated the same lies in a document published 2010 entitled "The agronomic benefits of glyphosate in Europe" [28, p.3]: "Since its discovery in the early 1970's the unique herbicidal active ingredient glyphosate has become the world's most widely used herbicide because it

is efficacious, economical and *environmentally benign*. These properties have enabled a plethora of uses which *continue to expand to this day providing excellent weed control both in agricultural and non-crop uses to benefit mankind and the environment.*” Further, it states that glyphosate has an “*excellent safety profile to operators, the public and the environment.*” (italics added)

On page 4 [28] Monsanto makes another fraudulent claim about the use of glyphosate in increasing wildlife and biodiversity: “**Increased wildlife and biodiversity:** Use of glyphosate instead of mechanical weed control techniques on non-cropped/amenity land preserves wildlife like small mammals and birds. Adoption of Conservation agriculture encourages earthworms and other invertebrates as well as birds. Judicious use of glyphosate to control excessive plant growth and invasive weeds on or around waterways and lakes encourages wildfowl and much other wildlife.”

An additional claim was made for GM Crops (p. 4): “Use of glyphosate tolerant crops allows later control of weeds providing early food sources for many invertebrates and birds and thus increases animal numbers.”

The technology of gene modification is way ahead of the federal regulatory system which puts us all in jeopardy. The USDA and the EPA are not at all equipped and have been gutted over the last several administrations to a point where they don't have the manpower to test anything and they certainly don't have the regulations in place to guard against overzealous bio-tech and chemical industries that are so powerful. It seems to me that we should be protected by the Nuremberg Code which gives us the right to consent to any experimentation. Without knowing what's in our food or having the “right to know” what's in our food we are essentially being used for experimentation.

<http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/archive/nurcode.html>

This year's crops will be drenched in more chemicals than ever before which will increase the load of toxic chemicals in baby formula. The corn, soy and sugar beets will be drenched in the Dow Enlist Duo, etc. products that will then be contained within the formula and all processed foods. Not a very good start for a baby!! Is this really what you want for our most vulnerable and precious children? If not I hope you will pass HB-6798 this year without any triggers and without any reservations.

Labeling will not increase pricing, it will not hurt the product, it will inform those who need to know what's in their products. We have labels for contents that help those with nut allergies. We should do the same for GMO foods.

<http://ecowatch.com/2015/02/04/diane-rehm-dangers-roundup/>

Other countries (64 of them) have banned GMOs or are labeling them.

<http://sustainablepulse.com/2015/01/03/russian-president-putin-signs-gmo-labeling-liability-law/>

Additional articles to read about the health and environmental ramifications of glyphosate and Roundup in our food.

[seneff samson glyphosate study](#)

<http://www.examiner.com/article/seventeen-reasons-to-ban-glyphosate>

<http://factorgmo.com/faqs/>

[Pesticide Illnesses and GM Soybeans,](#)

[Glyphosate/Roundup & Human Male Infertility](#)

[EU Regulators and Monsanto Exposed for Hiding Glyphosate Toxicity](#)

[Glyphosate & Cancer](#)

[Death by multiple poisoning ,glyphosate and Roundup](#)

http://www.naturalnews.com/048245_Monsanto_fraudulent_patents_tomato_plants.html

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/2014/12/15/scientists-need-rethink-beliefs-gmos/20444059/>

<http://www.momsacrossamerica.com/blog>