

H.B. No. 6798 (RAISED) COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN. 'AN ACT REQUIRING LABELING OF BABY FOOD AND INFANT FORMULA CONTAINING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ORGANISMS', to require infant formula and baby food that is partially or entirely produced with genetic engineering to be labelled as such.

TO: Childrens' Committee Chair and Committee Members:

Genetically engineered (GE) foods have not been determined safe to eat by robust scientific risk assessment; rather safety recognition has essentially been accomplished by general industry-associated pronouncements of safety and bureaucratic declaration that the GE foods were considered GRAS or Generally Recognized As Safe (1); yet there are new proteins being created by the ongoing processes of each genetic engineering event, some of which may contain viral gene fragments (such as the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus (2)) as well as new allergens. In addition to potential genome event issues, children are especially vulnerable to toxic chemical residues from the pesticides-dependent GE crop technology. Some of the toxic chemicals used on the crops include neonicotinoid seed coatings on top of the persistent Glyphosate active ingredient of RoundUp, which had been deceptively advertised as biodegradable. Chemicals in the weedkiller formula also include other so-called "inert" ingredients containing more chemicals like POEA(which serve to amplify pesticide toxicity) and which may result in potential synergistic effects, commonly overlooked. Combined with additional coats of spraying RoundUp in the field for weedkiller purposes and for crop drying or ripening prior to harvest increases the likelihood of toxic residues remaining on crops and entering the food supply. Evidence of liver and kidney toxicity have already been demonstrated in peer-reviewed studies, and cancer tumors have been noted as well.(3)

Parents and others who care for children need to be able to know about the presence of increased levels of toxins in our food supply such as those sanctioned last year by EPA when they raised the acceptable levels of Glyphosate due to increased weed resistance from weedkillers.

Agribiotech industry-associated studies have been shown to use double standards and even truncated or flawed studies when looking at pesticide safety. Numerous independent study findings merit attention and can be found in a recently completed 2nd edition compilation and well footnoted compendium of scientific studies entitled "GMO Myths and Truths" from earthopen.org (3).

To saddle our kids with the burden of consuming increasingly toxic substances from our food supply is unconscionable, carrying with it disruptive impacts on their learning and future development potential, and further will likely contribute to our nation's out of control health care costs. A whole generation of CT and US kids are being disadvantaged behind other nations, which at minimum, label these genetically engineered ingredients so there is an informed freedom of choice to be able to know what is in a family's food.

How can anyone consider depriving children of their full potentials by not labeling these "genetically engineered crop system" chemical poisons and potentially more disruptive impacts from the coming generation of genetically engineered crops and foods? I hope CT legislators will act to give labeling a chance to allow parents and others to make better and informed decisions for their childrens' health and family well being. Thank you.

Footnotes:

(1) Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Section 402 (a)(1) 1992

(2) http://www.i-sis.org.uk/Potentially_Dangerous_Virus_Gene_in_GM_Crops.php

(3) <http://earthopen.org/earth-open-source-reports/gmo-myths-and-truths-2nd-edition/>

Respectfully Submitted,
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