



**Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street
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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 6798:
An Act Requiring Labeling of Baby Food and Infant Formula Containing Genetically Engineered Organisms
Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ
February 24, 2015**

Representative Urban, Senator Bartolomeo, and distinguished members of the Committee on Children:

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, and I am writing today in support of House Bill 6798: An Act Requiring Labeling of Baby Food and Infant Formula containing genetically engineered organisms. We support requiring infant formula and baby food that is partially or entirely produced with genetic engineering to be labelled as such.

I am writing on behalf of the 240 congregations and more than 75,000 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members.

GMOs are genetically engineered foods made in laboratories. The process of genetic engineering involves the insertion of genes from one species into the DNA of an unrelated species. This is a very new process, which has only been around for about 20 years. Most of the traits that have been engineered into our foods are done so to create herbicide tolerant varieties and pesticide producing varieties. Herbicide tolerant crops are resistant to chemicals such as glyphosate, dicamba, and 2,4-D (a component of Agent Orange.) Pest resistant (pesticide producing) varieties are engineered to contain a toxin in every cell of the crop that causes a bug's stomach to explode when it tries to eat the plant. When we eat these foods, we are ingesting the chemicals that were sprayed on the crops and/or the toxins engineered to kill. These substances are in 80% of the processed foods in America today. Studies have indicated that they have been found in human blood, breast milk, and urine.¹

Currently 64 countries either ban or require labeling of foods containing GMOs. These countries include member nations of the European Union, Russia, China, Brazil, Australia, Turkey, South Africa, and others.²

Genetically engineered foods have never been scientifically tested in human trials. When animals are fed genetically engineered foods and/or glyphosate, and studied by independent scientists for a period greater than three months, these studies indicate: damage to vital organs, like the liver and kidneys; damage to gut tissues and gut flora; immune system disruption; reproductive abnormalities; and tumors. These scientific studies continue to be ignored by the FDA and other federal agencies.³

All parents and care givers deserve the right to know what is in the baby food and infant formula that they are feeding their children. The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ therefore urges the Committee on Children to support House Bill 6798, which would require infant formula and baby food that is partially or entirely produced with genetic engineering to be labelled as such.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of Senate Bill 6798.

Blessings,
Michele Mudrick
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¹ CONNFACT (Connecticut Families Against Chemical Trespass)

² CONNFACT

³ CONNFACT



God is still speaking,

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