

State of Connecticut

General Assembly

Committee on Children

March 7, 2016

A letter of Testimony for H.B. # 5300

An Act Concerning the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Children's Food

Dear Members of the Committee on Children,

I am writing to you as an individual concerned for my family, and as a licensed Naturopathic physician, representing my patients, who have requested a labeling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food.

I support the campaign for GMO labeling, which has several reasons.

First and foremost, this campaign is about our essential right to have a choice. In my practice as a Naturopathic doctor licensed in the state of Connecticut, I often see children with food allergies. Their parents know the particular foods these children should avoid, so they examine the food labels while shopping to make appropriate choices. Currently, food labels identify the presence of registered allergens, such as "egg", "wheat", "soy", "nuts", as well as the absence of substances, such as "gluten". Moreover, people of different ethnic origins, religions and personal beliefs can choose certain foods – kosher, halal, vegan, organic, and many others – by referencing the labels that identify them. Similarly, if food contains GMOs, its label should state this openly and clearly, so consumers who choose to eliminate GMOs from their diets can make equally informed decisions about the food products they purchase.

The GMO labeling campaign also reflects our deepest concerns for health deterioration due to GMO consumption. Over past fifteen years, peer-reviewed research studies results have shown harmful health effects of GMO consumption. These studies illustrate that GMO foods can cause toxic, allergenic, and mutagenic effects, in addition to altering the nutritional value of food. Laboratory animals fed exclusively GMO foods become disfigured and develop various tumors, while their organs and systems fail.

Public concerns about GMOs foods safety have well documented bases. GMO farming requires application of more pesticides than conventional crops. Among the pesticides, glyphosates (or Roundup)

take the highest toll on GMO food safety, as is evidenced by the **“No Scientific Consensus on GMO Safety” statement signed by nearly 300 scientists in 2013.**

- A study from Canada has discovered that Serum 3-MPPA (a metabolite of herbicide glyphosate) and CryAb1 toxin (bacterial toxin or Bt toxin added to the DNA of genetically modified crops) were detected in pregnant women and their fetuses, as well as in non-pregnant women. **This is the first study to reveal the presence of circulating PAGMF (pesticides associated to genetically modified foods) in women with and without pregnancy.**

[“http://www.journals.elsevier.com/reproductive-toxicology/most-cited-articles/](http://www.journals.elsevier.com/reproductive-toxicology/most-cited-articles/)

- **The World Health Organization’s cancer research arm designated the herbicide glyphosate, widely used on GMO crops, as “probably carcinogenic to humans.”** IARC Monographs Volume 112: evaluation of five organophosphate insecticides and herbicides. Leon, France, 20 March, 2015
<https://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/pdf/MonographVolume112.pdf>

- A Study from Germany has been shown that **chronically diseased people have higher levels of glyphosates than those levels in generally healthy population** “Detection of glyphosate residues in animals and humans” by Krüger et al., Journal Environmental Analytical Toxicology 2014, 4:2.
<http://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/detection-of-glyphosate-residues-in-animals-and-humans-2161-0525.1000210.pdf>

- **“Glyphosate Induces Human Breast Cancer Cells Growth** via Estrogen Receptors”. Food Chemical Toxicology, 2013 Sep;59:129-36. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23756170>

- Embryological study of the effects of low doses of glyphosate in development has been discovered **direct teratogenic effect of glyphosate in vertebrate embryos.** Study results open **concerns about the neural defects and craniofacial malformations of human offspring in populations exposed to GBH in agricultural fields.** “Glyphosate-Based Herbicides Produce Teratogenic Effects on Vertebrates by Impairing Retinoic Acid Signaling”. Chemical Research in Toxicology, 2010, 23 (10), pp 1586–1595.
<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/tx1001749>

- A study of the mechanisms of GMO/glyphosate effects on human metabolism has discovered that **GMO consuming consequences are most of the diseases associated with Western diet, including gastrointestinal disorders, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, depression, autism, infertility, cancer and**

Alzheimer's disease. " Glyphosate's Suppression of Cytochrome Enzymes and Amino Acid Biosynthesis by the Gut Microbiome: Pathway to Modern Diseases. By Anthony Samsel and Stephanie Seneff Entropy 2013, 15(4), 1416-1463. www.mdpi.com/1099-4300/15/4/1416/pdf

Dear members of the Committee, aren't these enough to ask for GM food labeling?

I encourage you to support food labeling of GMOs in the state of Connecticut.

Thank you for your work, your time, and your persistence in this campaign.

Respectfully,

Dr. Elena Sokolova, ND

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