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Testimony of State Representative Emmett D. Riley
To the Committee on Children In Support of SB 5300, An Act Concerning
the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Children's Food.
March 3, 2016

Good Afternoon Senator Dante Bartolomeo, Representative Diana Urban, Senator Beth Bye, Representative John Hampton and members of the Children Committee.

I am submitting testimony in support of SB 5300, An Act Concerning the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Children's Food. I specifically support the requirement of labelling on genetically engineered materials or foods produced impartial on infant formula, baby food and children's foods.

A genetically engineered food is a plant or meat product that has had its DNA artificially altered in a laboratory by genes from other plants, animals, viruses, or bacteria on order to produce foreign compounds in that food.

Thankfully, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection has recognized the significance of the requirement to label genetically modified infant formula, baby food or children's food. Genetically modified foods should be labeled for consumer knowledge as nutritional and calorie values are labeled in our foods.

Genetically modified foods have been linked with allergies, various digestive and bowel syndromes and even autism in humans. Without labeling of GMOs, we cannot make informed choices about our food.

To require labels of partial or entirety of genetically modified infant, baby food and children's food is a sensible decision.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 5300 and I ask that you please give this legislation your full support.