

**Testimony of Theresa Velendzas Before the Connecticut General Assembly of
Committee on Children
March 3, 2016**

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, Co-Vice Chairs, Ranking Members, and honorable members of the Committee on Children. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting **HB 5300 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS IN CHILDRENS FOOD.**

Thank you for your perseverance in this very important issue. I have been a supporter of accurate food labeling and have testified before you several times, in the early days, even with baby in tow. My elementary aged child has come to the Capitol to testify on this issue. I have spent countless hours advocating in my “mom” groups and talking to people about the good work you have been doing to support our right to know. There is a dark trend of late; the industry is fighting back and reaching into their deep pockets to undo the progress we have made. Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for doing the right thing and representing the majority who want GMO labeling as seen in over 60 other countries.

As your constituent I want you to know I support the valuable work you are doing. As a parent I can tell you that parenthood, especially early parenthood is a very trying time. I know a lot more parents who would like to be here today to testify in support of this action. But people work, and balancing work and family can be overwhelming. I have the luxury of working from home part time so I feel it is my duty to be here.

Labeling for GMOs began here in CT. We need to implement what was overwhelmingly supported back then – a sentiment that is changing the markets in our nation in such a way that causes the industry to fight back. We are now seeing wholesale markets around the nation carrying Organic food, to meet consumer demand. **By implementing this passed labeling you are representing the majority of the people, the foundation of our government.**

I am proud to say, and now we are seeing nationwide food chains as well as other states following suit. We know this is what consumers and constituents demand as information becomes available. It is the right thing to do. It is time to implement what consumers demand. We have waited long enough.

Thank you for your time and work on this. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist in this effort in any way.

Respectfully,
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