



## **Frequently Asked Questions: H.R. 4432, the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act**

### **QUESTION: Will this legislation prevent me from knowing if my food is safe?**

**ANSWER:** Absolutely not. The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act (SAFLA) will create a mandatory process for the submission of all GMO crops to the FDA before introducing them into the food supply. The FDA can specify any labeling they believe is necessary to protect the health and safety of consumers. Consumers wishing to avoid foods containing GMO ingredients can do so the way that they always have: purchasing food that has been certified organic. The right of every citizen to purchase the food they think best for themselves and their family is fully protected.

### **QUESTION: Is food made with biotechnology bad for me?**

**ANSWER:** No. Every serious medical and scientific organization, including the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the British Royal Society, and the World Health Organization, has stated that GMO crops, and the food made from them, are safe.

In fact, biotechnology increases the amount of food our farmers can grow, while reducing the use of pesticides and water—protecting the environment and keeping food affordable for American families.

### **QUESTION: Who is supporting this legislation?**

#### **ANSWER:**

- America's agriculture and food production groups like the Kansas Farm Bureau, the American Farm Bureau Federation, The Kansas Grain and Feed Association, the National Association of Wheat Growers, the Snack Food Association, and the International Dairy Foods Association strongly support this legislation.
- Leaders of both political parties from across the political spectrum. This includes conservative leaders like Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn as well as strong Democratic voices like Congressman G.K. Butterfield, lead co-sponsor of SAFLA and incoming chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.
- Those who feel a moral obligation to feed the world. According to the U.S. State Department: "*Agricultural biotechnology holds great promise to boost food production in both the developed and the developing world and to reduce agricultural vulnerability to the impact of pests, viruses, and drought. It is, as a result, an important tool in the world's effort to combat food insecurity and malnutrition.*"

**QUESTION: If people want to know if their food contains GMO, why not just let states label it?**

**ANSWER:** Because we already have an excellent system for evaluating the safety of this technology and because allowing states to mandate labeling would cause confusion, conflict and, most importantly, lots of increased cost for families.

The FDA has been the nation's pre-eminent food safety authority since it was established in 1907. The FDA has never been in the business of putting labels on food unless there is some danger to consumers – and given the overwhelming evidence that foods containing GMO ingredients are safe, there is no reason to start now.

Consider this example – there's a reason we have the FAA and not 50 or more sets of rules for aircraft that cross every jurisdiction in this country. Just as the FAA sets consistent regulations for pilots, the FDA should be the national authority for setting food labeling guidelines for products involved in interstate commerce.

**QUESTION: Some people just want to know if they're eating foods containing GMOs. Why is that a problem?**

**ANSWER:** That's not a problem. If you just want to know if you are consuming GMOs, you'll not be impacted by this bill. Just do as you do today: read the labels and purchase only those products that fit you and your goals.

Government mandated labels on food have long been reserved for health and safety issues. For example – consuming too much sugar is a health issue, so the label on your Snickers bar tells you how much sugar it contains. Putting a label on food that poses no health risk would only serve to confuse consumers.

Allowing every state, every city, or every town to create its own labeling requirements would cause massive confusion, conflicting rules, and increased costs for food producers—leading to increased prices for consumers. A recent study suggested that feeding a family of four could cost additional \$500 per year under mandatory GMO labeling. That is an extremely high price to pay for policies that aren't backed by science.

**QUESTION: Is this bill trying to make people eat GMOs or get rid of organic food?**

**ANSWER:** This bill does neither. Any consumer who wants to avoid GMOs will be able to do so the way they always have, which is to buy USDA certified organic food. The Congressman is completely supportive of those who make the choice to eat organic food, and if his bill became law tomorrow, consumers' ability to do so would not change.