

April 21, 2025

Minnesota Senate
Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development Committee

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members,

We, the undersigned parents, grandparents, and individuals, support SF188/HF44 the Test and Report Phthalates in Packaged Food bill.

We are concerned about toxic chemicals called phthalates that have been found in food that we purchase for our families every day. A Consumer Reports (CR) investigation from January 2024 found that 84 of the 85 grocery items tested contained phthalates, some at concerning levels. An organic product, Annie's Organic Cheesy Ravioli, had 53,579 nanograms of phthalates in a single serving, the highest level of any food tested. Also, the well-known family favorite Cheerios had 10,980 nanograms per serving.

Phthalates are chemicals that can leach out of plastic and get into food. Plastic, like tubing, conveyor belts and gloves, used during food manufacturing could also be a source of phthalates in our food.

Without investigations like the one done by CR, we as consumers have no way of knowing what toxic chemicals are inadvertently ending up in our food. This bill, authored by Senator Heather Gustafson and Representative Brion Curran, will provide important information to help us minimize our exposure to a chemical that could impact the health of our families. It will also help companies identify which of their products contain phthalates so that they can eliminate it.

A growing body of research has shown that phthalates are endocrine disruptors that interfere with the production and regulation of hormones. Even minor disruptions in hormone levels can contribute to an increased risk of health problems, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, certain cancers, birth defects, neurodevelopmental disorders, and infertility. Fetuses and young children are most at risk because their bodies are going through rapid development.

As parents, we want to provide nutritious food for our families. Consumers have the right to know that the food they buy is safe. Food manufacturers must provide nutrition and calorie information for their products. They should share the amount of phthalates in their food as well. Without that information, we can't make safe choices.

We all want food that is safe to eat, especially for our kids. This bill is one important step to make that happen. We support this bill and we hope you will too.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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Judy Lissick
Donald Sonsalla

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Lois Norrgard
Greg Lissick
Verna Sonsalla

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