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Why pass a bill to deny my right to know what I'm eating?

Thursday, February 25, 2016

I'm trying hard to eat natural, to eat REAL food. I'm reading labels. I'm trying to decipher the different ways ingredients can be disguised.

I know I'm responsible for what I put in my mouth. Why make it harder for me to know what's in my food?

I'm referring to the bill 1599 which passed the House last year and has now been introduced in the Senate by the senator from Kansas, the chairman of the agriculture committee.

It would negate all existing GMO labeling laws and block states' right to require food labels. Genetically modifying our food in the lab (the latest example is salmon) can be debated, but this is about information and labeling.

Opponents call the bill the DARK act (Deny Americans the Right to Know) Proponents call it the the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015. However, it doesn't require ingredients on labels, only denies what can be required.

I'm old enough to remember the opposition to any labeling requirements. Usually the main reason was cost. Yet companies change their labels all the time for advertising purposes, to run contests, feature a celebrity etc.

There are serious problems in the country to be addressed. Yet for some politicians it's a priority to pass this?

You can research and make your own decision about genetically modified organisms yourself, but once informed how can you act on your decision if you are denied the right to know.

There are over 300 million of us in the USA. We can't all grow our own food.

EDIT: 2/26/16 Which countries ban GMO cultivation? 38 I think - mostly in Europe
My source: sustainablepulse.com/2015/10/22/gm-crops-not-banned-in-36-countries-worldwide-sustainable-pulse-research/#.VtAyuf2urlU

Edit:
I did some research based on a comment.
You cannot legally buy alcohol or tobacco with food stamps.

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According to Snopes:

The SNAP Fairness Act of 2014 does not exist, President Obama didn't sign any bills into law on 7 December 2014, and SNAP benefit cards cannot be used to purchase alcohol or tobacco products.

My opinion on this:

I realize that assorted laws are broken all the time from food stamp and Medicare fraud to tax evasion and illegal dumping of toxic waste. I hope the solution will be to prosecute the law breakers especially the well organized groups who make millions by giving small amounts of money to addicts for their social security numbers and then submitting false claims for medical services.

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DS9KIE

here here ...you are right we have the right to know what is in the food we eat...GMO, sugar, chemicals, ect



It doesn't matter if you agree with a ingredient or not we still have the right to know
1897 days ago



SUNNYCALIGIRL

Did they really pass that? I was hoping they wouldn't!



I appreciate how you said we can't all grow our own food! At last, someone else who recognizes people work, have limited funds, time, space, physical limitations etc. and can't garden, or maybe just have other time consuming interests! We should be able to purchase healthy, nutritious produce at our grocery store, for cryin' out loud!
1920 days ago

Comment edited on: 3/7/2016 8:18:25 PM



MJREIMERS

Great blog.
1921 days ago



SWEETNEEY

1924 days ago



JBACHMAN56

Three main reasons for this:

1. Money
2. Money
3. Money

Money may possibly also be involved. The party of big business only cares about three things?

1. Money
2. Money
3. Money

1924 days ago



ANGIEN9

I don't like the idea of this bill either. I like to know what is in my food. Guess I will have to start cooking from scratch more often!! I fight that all the time, as it is just me. Might have to stop fighting and start cooking!!

Angie

1925 days ago



HARROWJET

I want to know what is in my food too.

1928 days ago



CD13202979

Well Said!



1930 days ago



AALLEY2



1930 days ago



MARYJEANSL



I am with you 100%. I want to know what is in my food. Right now, I can look for things with the Non-GMO Project Verified label, but not that many have it, or I can just avoid anything with any soy, non-cane sugar, corn, etc., in it. It's hard. I only wish we could get labeling. I do periodically send letters to my senators/congressman, but I don't really feel that they do any good. :-(
1930 days ago



TERI-RIFIC



The government does very little right. If you think getting the labeling right in this country is hard, what about what happens if we enter into the trans pacific partnership and our standards have to be lowered to the lowest common denominator. There is so much sneaky stuff going on right now it boggles the mind.

I researched honey after being concerned about bee disorder after going to the Fryeburg Fair and talking to bee keepers. A lot of the problem comes from bad practices in foreign countries-they launder their product through several different countries.

Fraud is rampant with the EBT. Just from recent memory, there was a small convenience store in Worcester that had a 6.5 million dollar fraud and one in Lowell that had 3.6 million and these are tiny stores. So, technically, no, you can't go to Kroger and buy liquor and cigarettes. You just sell your card for half the value for cash to a convenience store. (Or another person)
1931 days ago



MTN_KITTEN



I want to know what is in my food ... I do not trust the government or food providers to make MY decision for ME. Just sayin'
1931 days ago



WATERMELLEN



Info is something I value: so that I can make choices.
1931 days ago



ONEKIDSMOM



Amen. I want to know. I *do* read labels... and if it's not labeled, it may mean it doesn't go into

my cart!

1931 days ago



DOVESEYES



To me this is about the people in charge doing what is best for them, over here the government has removed two or more voted in politicians and replaced them with their choice. The two major powers like to keep each other in and work hard to oust any new comers. It is a long time since the government was in any way for the people. You can tell how bad it is when so many new parties rise to stand for election. We have elections this year, (if we are enrolled to vote and don't we get a fine), I will not vote for the major parties any more.
1931 days ago



DSJB9999



Well Said! thanks for sharing
1931 days ago



POLSKARENIA



Interesting, it seems commerce controls government worldwide!
1931 days ago



IAMSUNNYHOWARD



Thank you for the information. I think I will be sending letters to my Congressmen and Senators. This is ridiculous we have a right to know what we are eating. Big Food needs to be held

accountable!

1931 days ago



PRNCSCUP1-2FULL



I am not exclusively non-GMO. However, I do want to know if there are freakish chemicals added to my food and even my seeds!! I don't want antibiotics added to every food I eat. I also



want the right to know! Banning it thru an actual law..... Banning our right to know is just scary. The worse thing a government wants, our government, is an informed populous. How do you vote? I mean, you think you are voting for one thing in a person and then they may support crap like this!

Augh!!
1931 days ago



CHAYOR73



and we wonder why our country is going DOWN!!



1931 days ago



1CRAZYDOG

Money speaks louder than common sense. **SIGH** That is sad that we really cannot know if our food is safe or not.

1931 days ago



ROSEWAND

This is all about our right to know what goes into our bodies. Big food knows that if we knew many would eat less of their products.

The majority of Americans want this information I believe it is as high as 93%). The big money is on keeping us in the DARK,

And the commenter below that says these GMO products have been tested for their safety is incorrect. There are many questions about the safety of these products. Remember once these genetic alterations are made to the genetics of these plants, there is no turning back, They will be there forever, safe or not. We are unwillingly participating in the biggest scientific experiment yet.

1931 days ago



GLORYB83

Hmmm, being a Canadian, I don't really understand what this is all about. But I do agree with SILVERYESTERDAY that " it does seem like politics are run by businesses not people." What a shame!

1932 days ago



CD13758606



1932 days ago



PHEBESS

They also passed an act okaying the re-labelling of high fructose corn syrup as "fructose" - which is a major problem for those of us allergic to corn!

I'll keep living outside the USA, thank you.

1932 days ago



CD15641307

As a non American, I can only apologise if I'm wrong, but looking in from the outside, it does seem like politics are run by businesses not people. And I guess the food industry is one of the biggest and most powerful industries, so they have more influence. I imagine it's the same over here-David Cameron won't pass a sugar tax.

1932 days ago



CD4114015



It's ALL about



1932 days ago



WUMPASTAR

The issue actually goes way farther than costs. I'm pro-GMO and I really don't understand the need to label them as they go through extensive testing to make sure they are proper for consumption. Aside from the fact that they help countless countries where health problems (the most well known being partial blindness due to malnutrition) are recurrent, I think people would just go nuts over how "scary" it is without being informed at all. I know this is a generalization, but anyway. I guess that since I started dating a farmer I decided to broaden my horizons a little bit and actually ask the farmers themselves instead of assuming.

1932 days ago

WILSONWR

What a ridiculous bill! It always makes you suspicious when they support withholding information.



1932 days ago



MEADSBAY

Excellent points!
I don't personally have a problem with GMOs myself but I am a cartel reader of all nutritional labels.
Why deny us that information?



1932 days ago



LIVEDAILY

Big business and big agriculture have their hands in the pockets of politicians. Always have.
Only now, there is more at stake. It's sad. You can't even count on the produce at green/farmer's markets being non GMO unless you specifically ask.

1932 days ago



AQUAGIRL08



1932 days ago



PHOENIX1949

for bringing this to our attention. It sure does continuously get trickier and trickier to eat healthy..

1932 days ago



A_NEW_JAN

It makes little's sense, like so many things that our government, our representatives, do these days.
I say pay more attention to who our representative & Senators are, instead of all the hoopla about president, who can actually do very little.

1932 days ago



TIGERPISCES

It's terrifying. You're right, we can't all grow our own food and it's so frustrating to go food shopping nowadays.

1932 days ago



LUV2SURFCHIC

sometimes you just shake your head.....

i have to find out which state is also trying to regulate food stamps to the point where they can tell people what foods they can purchase. In california, they are somehow purchasing alcohol??

and yet, not able to purchase medication. legal medication that is.

1932 days ago



SLIMMERJESSE

We went through this in CA and they refuse to let us know GMO. However, I can taste the difference and many of our freggies are GMO.

1932 days ago



GINIEMIE

And even if we could grow our food, how do we know we are not getting GMO seeds! Too

much government in the wrong places trying to shield shady practices!!!!



1932 days ago



50YEARSWIFE

That is the problem with our congress, they are focusing on things like this instead of what will

keep our country strong. Disgusting.

1932 days ago

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