

Dear U.S Senators,

I am Arianna Creed, a constituent for the California Assembly District 16 and State Senate District 7 and I am writing in support of the senate bill SB073 which requires makers of infant formula or baby food sold in Maryland to test for heavy metals, report the results publicly and label the food as tested. There is no safe level of exposure to lead, mercury, cadmium, or arsenic and Maryland must take action in order to protect children's health and the public communities' health for the future.

Toxic metals found in baby food and associated labeled food contain neurotoxins and when exposed, the nervous system is heavily impaired. To protect the fundamental growth of children and their developing brains and minds, we must remove these toxic metals from baby food and have strict regulations in testing. According to a recent study, [95% of the store-bought baby food tested contain lead, 73% contain arsenic, 75% contain cadmium, and 32% contain mercury.](#)<sup>1</sup> These levels significantly contribute to damage in the brain and nervous system, slowed growth and development, learning and behavior problems, as well as hearing and speech problems.

To protect the future of our children and the communities around us, we must support and pass senate bill SB073 and take other actions to protect children and the public health against toxic heavy metals.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://hbbf.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/BabyFoodReport\\_ENGLISH\\_R6\\_0.pdf](https://hbbf.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/BabyFoodReport_ENGLISH_R6_0.pdf)