

Chair Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Health and Government Operations
House Office Building, Room 241
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

2/4/2024

Favorable - HB97- Baby Food - Toxic Heavy Metals - Testing and Labeling

RE: Letter of support

Toxic heavy metals, mercury, lead, arsenic, and cadmium, though found in many foods across the food chain, can wreak havoc on the systems of the most vulnerable, particularly infants whose systems are developing.

These toxic metals are known to damage the nervous system, increase the risk of cancer, damage the digestive system including the liver and kidneys.

Labeling baby food with warnings is imperative; however, a holistic approach is warranted, since additive effects from contaminated water used to prepare formulas may add an additional layer of increased contamination.

Testing for exposure and treatment must also be considered. Parents are justified in their concerns because the last thing that a parent should be concerned with is the possibility of “poisoning” their child with foods that are supposed to be providing nutrition for growth and development.

In my practice as a compounding pharmacist, I have worked with families whose children have experienced the impact of being exposed to heavy metal toxicity. Working with the patient’s pediatrician, I had to custom compound medications to chelate these metals and clean up their systems, with wonderful outcomes.

I support this bill wholeheartedly; and my fellow Marylanders should support this bill to protect our babies. Prevention, education, testing, and treatment options cannot be ignored. The healthcare team must work collaboratively to ensure that once this bill is passed, efforts are made to reduce this risk to our babies and our communities at large.

Sincerely,

Terri Peters, R.Ph., PD
Clinical Disease Management Pharmacist
Quality of Life Pharmacy & Health, Inc.
Capitol Heights, MD