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Prince George's County

Health and Government  
Operations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Government Operations  
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Insurance and Pharmaceuticals



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**Baby Food Labeling - Statement Regarding Toxic Heavy Metal Testing - Terminology - HB 443**  
**Testimony of Maryland State Delegate Deni Taveras**

Thank you, Chair Pena-Melnyk, and esteemed committee members. I am here to request your favorable report on HB 443, Baby Food Labeling - Statement Regarding Toxic Heavy Metal Testing - Terminology.

I am here today to express my strong support for HB 443, regarding baby food labeling. This bill proposes a crucial update to the terminology used on these labels, changing "toxic heavy metal" to "toxic element." Moreover, this is a technical change and is not changing the content of the bill. We have been working closely with the State of California on this issue, and this change aligns with similar legislation they have enacted. This harmonization of language will ensure consistency and clarity for consumers, especially as products are distributed across state lines. It also reflects a more accurate and accessible way to communicate the potential risks associated with these elements. I urge the committee for a favorable report on In closing, I ask this esteemed committee for your favorable report on HB 443.