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**WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**  
**THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

February 3, 2025

To: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair  
Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair  
Health and Government Operations Committee

On behalf of the **Maryland Women's Caucus**, we are pleased to express our **unanimous support** for **HB 443: Baby Food Labeling - Statement Regarding Toxic Heavy Metal Testing - Terminology**, sponsored by **Delegate Deni Taveras**. This legislation makes a critical improvement in the transparency and accuracy of baby food labeling, ensuring that parents and caregivers have access to clear, scientifically accurate information regarding the safety of the food they provide for their children.

Recent national concerns regarding the presence of toxic elements in baby food have raised alarms among parents and health professionals alike. **HB 443 ensures that baby food products tested for toxic elements are labeled with accurate and appropriate terminology**, changing the required statement from "toxic heavy metal" to "toxic element"—a term that better aligns with scientific standards and reduces unnecessary confusion or alarm among consumers.

This simple but important change promotes informed decision-making among parents while maintaining accountability within the baby food industry. By ensuring clarity and consistency in labeling, **HB 443** helps protect Maryland's youngest and most vulnerable residents while reinforcing consumer confidence in baby food safety regulations.

We **respectfully urge** the Health and Government Operations Committee to issue a **favorable report** for **HB 443**. This legislation will help Maryland families make informed choices about their children's nutrition while ensuring that manufacturers uphold high safety and transparency standards.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your commitment to policies that protect the health and well-being of Maryland's children and families.