

Support with Amendment for 2024 Senate Bill 0911

Eszter Szabo
Bethesda, MD 20817
March 6, 2024

SB 911 aims at prohibiting for sale in Maryland a gene structure - or function -modifying product without certain labeling and sets penalties for violating this law. This is a good and forward-looking bill since today many consumers are worried about certain genetically modified food, vaccines, cosmetics, etc.

Consumers have the right to know what they ingest into their bodies via nutrition, as a medical treatment or via using a cosmetics product on their bodies since these products have the capacity to change/modify the structure of function of one or more genes in a consumer. Before they use these products, consumers have the right to know that gene structure modification can be the result after consuming or using these products. And with such labeling requirement, if they choose so, they can avoid their use.

As it happened with the organic labeling of food that assures consumers that the produce wasn't grown via using genetically modified organisms or artificial pesticides, the labeling for gene structure modification would help consumers choose products that better align with their consumption philosophy or help avoid those products that could potentially be harmful to them.

Here are some articles that talk about genetically modified food and the issues with them:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/errolschweizer/2022/03/02/what-should-consumers-be-asking-about-precision-fermentation/?sh=c64073727b02>

<https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/bored-cow-synthetic-milk-protein-unknown-compounds/>

<https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/lab-grown-fake-chicken-heavy-metals-rodent-dna-cola/>

Please support this bill with an amendment that would add a requirement for labeling especially of foods produced by artificially engineered elements that may modify genes in a consumer.

Thank you and sincerely,