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INTERNAL MEDICINE

PEDIATRICS

ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE

March 7, 2024

Re: HB1421

WRITTEN AND ORAL TESTIMONY

AN ACT concerning FOOD, DRUGS, and COSMETICS – GENE STRUCTURE – AND FUNCTION-MODIFYING PRODUCTS – LABELING.

POSITION IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL WITH AMENDMENT

For more than 45 years I have been a practicing Maryland physician¹ who specializes in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics with a special interest in treating complex medical problems, including environmental medicine.

Please refer to the cited articles that reference genetically modified products (GMP or GMO)^{2 3} These are uploaded in support of my testimony.

My proposed AMENDMENT:

Wherever the word "PERSON" is used, add the word "ORGANIZATION" or phrase "BUSINESS ENTITY"

Families and patients seek my expertise in identifying complex medical conditions, which often require extensive history gathering. They may have unusual or unexpected outcomes. Prior testing and treatments are hallmarks in the discovery process. After discovery, treatment frequently includes nutraceuticals and pharmaceuticals.

Understanding a person's interactions with previous treatments can be critical to creating a new regimen.

Part of my investigation usually includes a dietary history and sources of pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals. I may require information on how these products are created.

¹ CV Alan R. Vinitzky, M.D.

² Wikipedia Genetically modified organism (on-line access 2/27/24), 21 pages of content and 390 references.

³ Karalis DT, Karalis T, Karalis S, et al. 2020. Genetically Modified Products, Perspectives and Challenges. *Cureus* 12(3):e7306. DOI 10.7759/cureus.7306. 8 pages – 6 pages of content and 46 references.

Healthcare providers expect that FDA-approved pharmaceuticals will meet a certain standard of consistency. But foods and nutraceuticals do not have the same level of supervision. Some products are accompanied by a disclaimer.

Frequently, persons who react adversely to treatments have altered metabolic responses. They process substances too quickly or too slowly, which results in too little or too much of what they were using. Their metabolism is further affected by their environment. What they ingest, inhale, or apply to their skin further influences how their body reacts. Their DNA and proteins might be altered by their environmental exposures. These are called “adducts.”

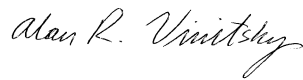
Some persons make selections based on how products are labeled. Others could care less. As a treating physician, I am concerned that sensitive persons respond differently, due to additives (such as colors, excipients, and pesticides). As many as 20-30% of persons have some unusual characteristics that alter their function.

GMPs are additional features that have the potential to contribute to reactions. Some scientists think that GMPs have no impact on consumers. One example – consumption of GMP plants that are resistant to GLYPHOSATE may have been treated with that herbicide. There are neurological consequences of consuming GLYPHOSATE in some persons.

Both citations reference **THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE** or the concept that the consequences of GMP use are not fully understood. The outcomes for individuals and their offspring are not well appreciated currently. Therefore, GMPs should not be used.

The reasonable option is to allow consumers a choice by LABELING a product that contains GMPs.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan R. Vinitzky".

Alan R. Vinitzky, M.D.