

Dear Assembly Member ___ or Dear State Senator:

I am writing to you as your constituent to request that you become a sponsor of S.485B/A.617B, the bill to Label GMO foods in NY State. Along with other Americans, I would like to know what is in the food I buy for myself and my family. According to polls by Consumer Reports and *The New York Times*, over 90% of consumers want genetically engineered food labeled. Research suggests that some genetically engineered food products may pose health risks.

Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) classified glyphosate, the key ingredient in Monsanto's widely used weedkiller Roundup, as a probable cause of cancer in humans. Most GMO crops are heavily sprayed with Roundup because they have been engineered to survive being doused with it. Previous scientific studies showed that exposure to glyphosate increased the incidence of certain cancers in mice and rats. Glyphosate has been detected in air, water, and human blood and urine. It is harmful to soil and its excessive use on farm acreage is believed to be responsible for the decimation of the Monarch butterfly population.

Because FDA does not do pre-market safety assessments for GMOs, it's hard to know if specific GMOs are safe to eat. Without GMO labeling, any potential harm to human health is untraceable. Mandatory labeling would allow any unexpected effects of genetic engineering, such as new or unusual food allergy responses, to be identified and tracked.

Labeling food that has been genetically modified would allow consumers like me to decide whether we want to purchase these products or not. We deserve the right to know what is in the food we feed our families.

Please become a sponsor of this bill and vote for it when it comes to the floor!
Respectfully yours,