Heritage Middle School

Model Congress- 7Th Grade

Committee of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Bill # HS198

First Congress Heritage Middle School

First Session

March 24, 2016

Senators Desai, Kim, Lewis, and Soroka introduce the following bill:

A Bill

To mandate labeling of GM ingredients in all products made in and imported to the U.S.

BE IT ENACTED by Senate and The House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Sec. 1: This bill requires the labeling of all genetically modified ingredients in all food products sold in the United States. Labeling of GM ingredients means to ensure that consumers are aware of the contents inside the items they buy, and the processes the item went through. Labels must be clearly identifiable to the buyer and must be written in English. Primarily, consumers will benefit tremendously from this bill due to the fact that our bill requires genetically modified foods to embrace labels telling the consumer the constituents and processes used to make that product. This will assist consumers or buyers of everyday items to stay in line with their ethics as well as food and scientific safety. We, as the Senate are now officially proposing mandatory labeling for GMOs, as of March 24, 2016.

Sec. 2: A GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) is a food that has been genetically spliced, and/or bred in order to achieve a specific trait. These procedures are usually conducted in a lab, where scientists artificially manipulate food/seeds (with bacteria etc.)

Sec. 3: A label refers to a marker that is placed in clear view to identify whether a specific product was non-GMO certified or if it contains GM ingredients inside of it.

Sec. 4: Exceptions are as follows: If a certain food product contains fewer than 5% of GM ingredients, this food item will be considered non-GMO, due to the difficulty of tracing signs of GMO’s in food, (even in organic produce) as they are contagious and can easily spread one from food to the next. Other exceptions includes that if the factory/lab in which the GMO’s are created are approved safe by the FDA, they are permitted to using a separate label (such as USDA or FDA approved).

Sec. 5: This law will be implemented by USDA (U.S Department of Agriculture). It will be enforced by the FDA which will make sure each product of food contains the proper label stating the GM ingredients, and processes.

Sec. 6: Funding will come from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services. Funds will be used to inspect food processing and storage facilities for proper labeling of food products.

Sec. 7: An agricultural or food (or beverage) producing company which does not label its GM ingredients (or an FDA approved label), will be charged $20,000, for the first offense. Following this, they will have 4 weeks to make modifications to follow this bill. If not, from then on, as a second offense, if the company's revenue is below $500 million dollars they will be charged 0.5% of its annual revenue each day the law is violated. If not, (revenue is above $500 million) the company will be charged 0.25% of its annual revenue each day this law is violated.

Sec. 8: This law will take full effect between the time span of six months, on September 24, 2016.