

Big Ag wants immunity from lawsuits. The rights of individuals, localities, and states to be able to sue agrochemical companies is critically at stake.

Bayer/Monsanto has just hired 20 agrochemical lobbyists to convince us that they should enjoy complete immunity from lawsuits, just like the vaccine companies. In other words, they should be able to produce pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides, and as long as the EPA gives them a license to do so (which does not establish safety for human exposure), then they could *never be sued* for cancer or other harmful impacts due to exposure to their products.

Meanwhile, the drugs they sell that treat the harm their products cause, like cancer, depression, and fertility drugs, will continue to soar. It's a perfect profit circle for them that they want to protect. I believe that rather than our elected officials giving Bayer executives another beach house, they should protect us in our house. The number one reason for bankruptcy, which can lead to homelessness, is medical debt. Taking away their resident's right to sue for harm is unjust and dangerous for our communities. Compensation for harm from any unsafe product is necessary for product accountability and the health and security of our communities.

These bills give Big Ag complete immunity from individuals for **violating** federal labeling law, letting them cover up dangers without consequence. This cannot happen on our watch!

This play for profit is even worse for us, and better for them, than the deal the vaccine manufacturers got. In [H.R.5546 - National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986](#) the vaccine companies were required to pay .75 cents per vaccine into a special injury fund. A court was set up so that victims of vaccine injury could apply for a hearing and compensation. The proposed bills for agrochemical immunity don't even propose a fund, court, warning on the label, or any accountability whatsoever. Bayer/Monsanto and all agrochemical companies would enjoy complete immunity from ever being sued again. Their strategy is to go state by state, then use the states as precedence to have a federal bill passed.

Their arguments are:

1. If they don't get immunity, the farmers will lose access to important tools like glyphosate and other chemicals, that are "necessary" for farming.
2. If the farmers lose these agrochemicals, the price of food will go up, putting disadvantaged people at an even greater disadvantage.
3. The agrochemical companies should enjoy immunity because the EPA has deemed their products safe.
4. The state-by-state laws are too cumbersome, there should be "uniformity" in pesticide laws, meaning a federal law that allows all chemical companies immunity.

My arguments are:

1. There are millions of farmers around the world who farm without glyphosate or toxic chemicals.
2. If your products aren't safe, you should be held accountable. Reformulate your products to be safe.
3. Your product safety is your responsibility, not the EPA's, they do not do safety testing.
4. The states, localities, and individuals have the right to sue. Period.

Corporate interests must not precede the safety of American farmers, citizens, and our children!

I am urging you to vote NO on HB1318! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sara Christianson