

Good Morning,

My name is Dr. Liza Lockwood. I am the Medical Affairs Lead for the Crop Science Division of Bayer, an emergency physician, a medical toxicologist & a mom. I am here today in support of HB 1318. The purpose of this bill is to ensure that the scientific safety of crop protection products are accurately reflected on the label.

Since doctors & most health practitioners do not spend a lot of time thinking about crop protection & labels, let's talk about this using an example from medicine.

Let's take penicillin. Penicillin is an antibiotic that has been on the market for over 75 years & there are thousands of studies about its safety & efficacy in the literature. These studies have been extensively reviewed and assessed by the FDA.

Imagine if one day a small group of people in Kansas City, Kansas made the claim that penicillin causes birth defects & went to the press with those claims. The ensuing media campaign became concerning for the public & then the public began pressuring their legislators to give Kansas the right to label penicillin with the claim that "This substance is known to the state of Kansas to cause birth defects." Even when we've known for over 75 years that this claim is not true. However, because of the pressure, legislators decide to put the claim on the label.

What would the impact be?

Well, manufacturers, pharmacists, and doctors would become very concerned about the liability they would incur because of the claim that they had "failed to warn" their patients even though the claim about birth defects wasn't true.

How would this impact patients?

Well patients in Kansas City, Kansas would have a much harder time getting penicillin than their neighbors right across the street in Kansas City, Missouri.

Now amplify that by 50.

As you can see, a patchwork of labeling would be very difficult to navigate across the country.

If, on the other hand, the FDA were the party responsible for the scientific accuracy of the label, the consistency across the country would make it better for patient access.

This labeling would not shield manufacturers from liability if they made a "bad batch", the pharmacists would still be liable for dispensing the wrong formulation & the doctors would still be liable for administering the wrong dose.

So let's come back to glyphosate. It is as critical to farmers as antibiotics are to medicine. Every major regulatory agency in the world has evaluated its safety for over 50 years and have come to the same conclusion. It does not cause cancer.

My family & I have personally used RoundUp branded products on our farm for decades & I have reviewed the safety studies in depth & I know that it doesn't cause cancer.

Our aim is to provide consistency on the label so there isn't a patchwork of 50 different labels that will limit farmers' access to this critically important crop protection tool.

Thank you for considering & I'm happy to take questions.