



Shining Light on the So-Called “DARK” Act ***Facts and Fables of the*** ***Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015***

H.R. 1599 would apply rigorous standards in order for any company to claim that their products are GMO free, organic, or natural. **Fact.**

- The bill would set national standards for labeling non-genetically engineered food and genetically engineered food.
- To be labeled as GMO-free, products would be subject to supply chain process controls and would have to comply with a food plan that the bill would direct producers to develop. Additional standards would apply to livestock products, including requirements that the food the livestock eats be GMO-free.

H.R. 1599 denies Americans the right to know what is in their food and takes away my ability to make informed choices about what I feed my family. **Fable.**

- Fact: Currently only 17 states require GMO labels to be placed on food packaging and Georgia is *not* one of these states. As a result, there is currently no required GMO labeling in Georgia.
- Fact: H.R. 1599 will not and does not prohibit GMO labeling of food or infringe upon your current ability to educate yourself about what is in the food you and your family consume. Instead, it encourages companies to provide that information to you in order to highlight the differences between their product and that of their competitor, gaining you as a customer if GMO information is an issue about which you are concerned.

H.R. 1599 will prohibit labels from being put on food, making it impossible for me to see what I’m eating and if it is safe or not. **Fable.**

- Fact: H.R. 1599 does not, in any way, prohibit food producers or manufactures from placing labels on their products concerning GMOs. Instead, it does the opposite. It leaves private businesses to make the private decision over the information they place on their labels, empowering producers to create product differentiation and increase competition in the marketplace. Fact: If the food being sold to consumers has material differences from its traditional, non-genetically modified counterpart, such as safety or nutritional differences, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) still requires that information to be communicated to consumers regardless if the differences are considered positive or negative.

H.R. 1599 limits a state's ability to take action to inform me about GMO products, and prohibits counties and cities from mandating where GMO crops can be grown. Fable.

- Fact: H.R. 1599 only deals with labeling standards. There is nothing in the bill regarding production or land use.

H.R. 1599 bans GMO labeling of food, prohibiting me from knowing if the food I buy is genetically engineered. This law makes it so that companies are not allowed to tell me if their products are GMO free and therefore, no labeling will take place. Fable.

- Fact: This legislation in no way bans private companies from providing consumers with information concerning the GMOs in their products. Rather, it opens up the marketplace and pursues a free market approach to food labeling, decreasing onerous federal regulations and intervention in the marketplace.
- Fact: This legislation *encourages* producers to provide GMO labeling for their consumers. If H.R. 1599 passes, it ensures that private businesses have a choice over the labeling they wish to provide, leading to greater competition in the marketplace as companies are given the ability to highlight their differences from their competitors. This legislation creates incentives for companies to provide *more* information to consumers, not less.

H.R. 1599 is a lobbying ploy to help the GMO industry take over the marketplace and crowd out non-GMO foods while permanently deceiving customers. Fable.

- Fact: H.R. 1599 is a free market approach to labeling that opens up the marketplace to increased competition. It gives private producers and manufacturers in the food industry more power over their packaging and the information they provide to consumers. By reining back federal intervention and regulation in labeling standards, H.R. 1599 encourages businesses to provide *more* information to their consumers than is currently required by most state laws. This will result in product differentiation leading companies to compete over you as a customer by placing GMO information on their food voluntarily, instead of being mandated by multiple state governments to comply with a variety of standards.

The voluntary government-run labeling program simply won't go far enough to make sure consumers have the information we need to make informed decisions and will stop all pre-market safety testing of GMO foods. Fable.

- Fact: H.R. 1599 creates a uniform code across all states for all food producers who grow and sell their food to the American people. It opens up the quality approval process to both private and federal organizations to place a stamp of approval on products, allowing for greater competition and distinction of goods in the marketplace. This will result in you having increased options and information. H.R. 1599 therefore helps to avoid a web of onerous individual state labeling laws which result in increased costs of getting produce to the marketplace. This uniformity will ensure that all businesses are held to the same standard whereas currently only 17 states have GMO labeling requirements.