



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

CARMINE L. GENTILE
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Vice Chair
Joint Committee on Higher Education
Committees:
Environment and Natural Resources
State Administration
and Regulatory Oversight
Elder Affairs

May 10, 2023

Representative Daniel Cahill, Chair
Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
State House, Room 527A
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Rebecca Rausch, Chair
Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
State House, Room 218
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Cahill and Chair Rausch,

I write to you in support of my bill H.813 and the Senate counterpart S.516, filed by Senator Jason Lewis, *An Act governing the use of pesticides containing the herbicide substance glyphosate in the Commonwealth*. This legislation would create licensing restrictions on the use and sale of glyphosate in Massachusetts so that only persons properly licensed or authorized to apply pesticides could purchase and use it, or offer it for sale, supply or make available any pesticide that contains it.

The Commonwealth must act to protect the health of our residents. Glyphosate is classified as a “probable human carcinogen” according to the World Health Organization and International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). It is listed as a cancer-causing chemical under California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act. Products containing it now carry cancer warning labels in that state. Additionally, glyphosate has been specifically linked to both Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma (NHL) and multiple myeloma and appears to have negative impacts on beneficial bacteria in humans which in turn has been connected to a significant number of additional adverse health effects.

Glyphosate is also the world’s most commonly used herbicide. Recent studies have found glyphosate residues in lakes, rivers, rainwater, soil and in human blood and urine. Furthermore, a biological evaluation released on Nov. 25th, 2020, by the US Environmental Protection Agency concludes that glyphosate is [likely to adversely affect 93% of threatened and endangered species](#).

Bayer, which purchased Monsanto, has sustained more than \$4 billion in judgments and has more than a thousand lawsuits pending against it because of its sale and distribution of glyphosate products in the United States. Many common processed foods on our grocery store shelves have enough glyphosate within them to produce consumer blood levels of three times the level of glyphosate allowed for potable water in the European community. I have had myself tested and can personally confirm this.

This legislation was reported favorably by the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture during the last two sessions. I hope to see a favorable report once again and I look forward to discussing this legislation in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carmine L. Gentile", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carmine L. Gentile
State Representative
13th Middlesex District