

## Dear Members of Congress,

On behalf of **115 national and local organizations**, we urge you to co-sponsor H.R. 2229, the Baby Food Safety Act of 2021, to take swift action to protect the next generation of children from harmful heavy metals in their food.

Every day, 10,000 babies start eating baby food, which means that every day, 10,000 new babies are exposed to toxic heavy metals in their food that can cause permanent decreases in IQ, diminished future economic productivity, and behavior and learning problems. **Children under two years of age lose over 11 million IQ points from exposures to heavy metals in food, and one in six children in America has a developmental disability.**

As you know, a recent report by the House Committee on Oversight found many baby foods are contaminated with dangerous levels of the toxic heavy metals arsenic, lead, cadmium, and mercury. The science on these toxic metals is clear: there is no question that they harm babies' developing brains, and there is no safe level of exposure.

The Baby Food Safety Act of 2021 will protect our vulnerable infants by ensuring that swift, effective actions to remove heavy metals from baby foods are taken by both government agencies and manufacturers. The Baby Food Safety Act will lower the allowable levels of arsenic, mercury, lead, and cadmium in baby food and increase monitoring and enforcement of those levels.

Although we know this change cannot happen overnight, government actions to protect babies from the toxic heavy metals in their food are long overdue. **The Baby Food Safety Act is much more than a baby step to protect the millions of infants and toddlers that are exposed to these contaminants every day.**

Please co-sponsor the Baby Food Safety Act today to ensure the next generation of babies has access to safe, healthy food.

## Sincerely,

Advanced Pediatrics  
Alaska Community Action on Toxics  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
American Sustainable Business Council  
Arizona PIRG  
Because Health  
Black Millennials 4 Flint  
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners  
CALPIRG  
Campaign for Healthier Solutions  
Center for Environmental Health  
Center for Food Safety  
Childhood Lead Action Project  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood  
Clean and Healthy New York  
Clean Label Project  
Clean Production Action  
Clearya  
City of Champaign Township  
Civically, Inc.  
CoPIRG  
Columbia Food Policy Committee  
Community Based Organization Partners  
Community Engagement Studio of Flint  
CONNPIRG  
Consumer Reports  
Defend Our Health  
Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice  
Dr. Yolanda Whyte Pediatrics  
Earthjustice  
Ecology Center

Environmental & Public Health Consulting  
Environmental Health Trust  
Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics  
Safety (FACTS)  
Farm Fare  
First Year Cleveland  
Flint Center for Health Equity Solutions  
Flint Public Health Youth Academy  
Flint Rising  
Florida PIRG  
Food and Water Watch  
Georgia PIRG  
GMO Science  
Healthy Babies Bright Futures  
Healthy Schools Network  
Homewood Children's Village  
Illinois PIRG  
Latinas Contra Cancer  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Learning Disabilities Association of Alabama  
Learning Disabilities Association of Alaska  
Learning Disabilities Association of Arkansas  
Learning Disabilities Association of Connecticut  
Learning Disabilities Association of Georgia  
Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois  
Learning Disabilities Association of Maine  
Learning Disabilities Association of Maryland  
Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan  
Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota  
Learning Disabilities Association of Nebraska  
Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey

## **Sincerely,**

Learning Disabilities Association of New York  
State

Learning Disabilities Association of North  
Carolina

Learning Disabilities Association of Oklahoma

Learning Disabilities Association of  
Pennsylvania

Learning Disabilities Association of South  
Carolina

Learning Disabilities Association of Tennessee

Learning Disabilities Association of Texas

Learning Disabilities Association of Utah

Learning Disabilities Association of Wisconsin  
Mamavation

MASSPIRG

Maryland PIRG

Moms Across America

Moms Clean Air Force

MoPIRG

National Association of Environmental  
Medicine

National Center for Healthy Housing

National Women's Health Network

NC Child

NCPIRG

NJPIRGMPIRG

Ohio PIRG

One Voice

Oregon Environmental Council

OSPIRG

PennPIRG

People & Pollinators Action Network

PIRG in Michigan

Pure Earth

Safer Chemicals Healthy Families

Safer States

SafetyNEST Science

Saul's Light Foundation

Science and Environmental Health Network

Sierra Club

Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision

Sprout San Francisco

Stories for Action

TexPIRG

The Arc of the United States

Toxic Free NC

U.S. PIRG

UPSTREAM

WashPIRG

Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

WISPIRG

Women for a Healthy Environment

Women's Voices for the Earth

Wu Yee Children's Services

**Dear Speaker Pelosi —**

**On behalf of 115 organizations**, we write to thank you for your support of H.R. 2229, The Baby Food Safety Act of 2021.

Every day, 10,000 babies start eating baby food, which means that every day, 10,000 new babies are exposed to toxic heavy metals in their food that can cause permanent decreases in IQ, diminished future economic productivity, and behavior and learning problems. **Children under two years of age lose over 11 million IQ points from exposures to heavy metals in food, and one in six children in America has a developmental disability.**

We cannot delay any longer: swift government action is crucial to ensuring the safety and health of the next generation. More than 95% of baby food is contaminated with dangerous levels of toxic arsenic, lead, cadmium, and mercury.

Although we know this change cannot happen overnight, the Baby Food Safety Act of 2021 is much more than a baby step to protect the millions of infants and toddlers that are exposed to these contaminants every day.

**Speaker Pelosi, thank you for your strong support of this bill — your voice and influence on this issue is greatly needed and appreciated.**

## **Sincerely,**

Advanced Pediatrics  
Alaska Community Action on Toxics  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
American Sustainable Business Council  
Arizona PIRG  
Because Health  
Black Millennials 4 Flint  
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners  
CALPIRG  
Campaign for Healthier Solutions  
Center for Environmental Health  
Center for Food Safety  
Childhood Lead Action Project  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood  
Clean and Healthy New York  
Clean Label Project  
Clean Production Action  
Clearya  
City of Champaign Township  
Civically, Inc.  
CoPIRG  
Columbia Food Policy Committee  
Community Based Organization Partners  
Community Engagement Studio of Flint  
CONNPIRG  
Consumer Reports  
Defend Our Health  
Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice  
Dr. Yolanda Whyte Pediatrics  
Earthjustice  
Ecology Center

Environmental & Public Health Consulting  
Environmental Health Trust  
Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics  
Safety (FACTS)  
Farm Fare  
First Year Cleveland  
Flint Center for Health Equity Solutions  
Flint Public Health Youth Academy  
Flint Rising  
Florida PIRG  
Food and Water Watch  
Georgia PIRG  
GMO Science  
Healthy Babies Bright Futures  
Healthy Schools Network  
Homewood Children's Village  
Illinois PIRG  
Latinas Contra Cancer  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Learning Disabilities Association of Alabama  
Learning Disabilities Association of Alaska  
Learning Disabilities Association of Arkansas  
Learning Disabilities Association of Connecticut  
Learning Disabilities Association of Georgia  
Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois  
Learning Disabilities Association of Maine  
Learning Disabilities Association of Maryland  
Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan  
Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota  
Learning Disabilities Association of Nebraska  
Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey

## **Sincerely,**

Learning Disabilities Association of New York  
State

Learning Disabilities Association of North  
Carolina

Learning Disabilities Association of Oklahoma

Learning Disabilities Association of  
Pennsylvania

Learning Disabilities Association of South  
Carolina

Learning Disabilities Association of Tennessee

Learning Disabilities Association of Texas

Learning Disabilities Association of Utah

Learning Disabilities Association of Wisconsin  
Mamavation

MASSPIRG

Maryland PIRG

Moms Across America

Moms Clean Air Force

MoPIRG

National Association of Environmental  
Medicine

National Center for Healthy Housing

National Women's Health Network

NC Child

NCPIRG

NJPIRGMPIRG

Ohio PIRG

One Voice

Oregon Environmental Council

OSPIRG

PennPIRG

People & Pollinators Action Network

PIRG in Michigan

Pure Earth

Safer Chemicals Healthy Families

Safer States

SafetyNEST Science

Saul's Light Foundation

Science and Environmental Health Network

Sierra Club

Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision

Sprout San Francisco

Stories for Action

TexPIRG

The Arc of the United States

Toxic Free NC

U.S. PIRG

UPSTREAM

WashPIRG

Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

WISPIRG

Women for a Healthy Environment

Women's Voices for the Earth

Wu Yee Children's Services

**Dear Dr. Woodcock,**

Thank you for making toxic metals in food eaten by babies and young children a priority. We agree that babies and young children should be prioritized because their smaller bodies and metabolism make them more vulnerable to the harmful effects of these contaminants.

While we believe that setting draft action levels will send a powerful signal to the food industry to do better, we urge FDA to move more swiftly to set draft levels for all toxic elements, to move more swiftly to finalize action levels, and to set clear deadlines for industry reformulation.

Under FDA's proposal, final levels for some metals may not be set until 2024, and deadlines have not been proposed at all for two metals, mercury and cadmium. The plan released by FDA would only set draft levels for these two metals by 2024, if not later.

**While we share FDA's commitment to reducing the presence of toxic metals in food consumed by children, we urge FDA to set clear and more urgent deadlines for action.**

Each day, 10,000 babies start eating solid food. If the FDA waits until 2024 or later to set final levels food companies must meet, millions of babies will be exposed to metals that threaten their health and development.

We look forward to working with the FDA to quickly set action levels that protect babies and young children from toxic metals.

## **Sincerely,**

Advanced Pediatrics  
Alaska Community Action on Toxics  
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments  
American Sustainable Business Council  
Arizona PIRG  
Because Health  
Black Millennials 4 Flint  
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners  
CALPIRG  
Campaign for Healthier Solutions  
Center for Environmental Health  
Center for Food Safety  
Childhood Lead Action Project  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood  
Clean and Healthy New York  
Clean Label Project  
Clean Production Action  
Clearya  
City of Champaign Township  
Civically, Inc.  
CoPIRG  
Columbia Food Policy Committee  
Community Based Organization Partners  
Community Engagement Studio of Flint  
CONNPIRG  
Consumer Reports  
Defend Our Health  
Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice  
Dr. Yolanda Whyte Pediatrics  
Earthjustice  
Ecology Center

Environmental & Public Health Consulting  
Environmental Health Trust  
Environmental Working Group  
Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics  
Safety (FACTS)  
Farm Fare  
First Year Cleveland  
Flint Center for Health Equity Solutions  
Flint Public Health Youth Academy  
Flint Rising  
Florida PIRG  
Food and Water Watch  
Georgia PIRG  
GMO Science  
Healthy Babies Bright Futures  
Healthy Schools Network  
Homewood Children's Village  
Illinois PIRG  
Latinas Contra Cancer  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Learning Disabilities Association of Alabama  
Learning Disabilities Association of Alaska  
Learning Disabilities Association of Arkansas  
Learning Disabilities Association of Connecticut  
Learning Disabilities Association of Georgia  
Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois  
Learning Disabilities Association of Maine  
Learning Disabilities Association of Maryland  
Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan  
Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota  
Learning Disabilities Association of Nebraska  
Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey



## **Sincerely,**

Learning Disabilities Association of New York  
State

Learning Disabilities Association of North  
Carolina

Learning Disabilities Association of Oklahoma

Learning Disabilities Association of  
Pennsylvania

Learning Disabilities Association of South  
Carolina

Learning Disabilities Association of Tennessee

Learning Disabilities Association of Texas

Learning Disabilities Association of Utah

Learning Disabilities Association of Wisconsin  
Mamavation

MASSPIRG

Maryland PIRG

Moms Across America

Moms Clean Air Force

MoPIRG

National Association of Environmental  
Medicine

National Center for Healthy Housing

National Women's Health Network

NC Child

NCPIRG

NJPIRGMPIRG

Ohio PIRG

One Voice

Oregon Environmental Council

OSPIRG

PennPIRG

People & Pollinators Action Network

PIRG in Michigan

Pure Earth

Safer Chemicals Healthy Families

Safer States

SafetyNEST Science

Saul's Light Foundation

Science and Environmental Health Network

Sierra Club

Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision

Sprout San Francisco

Stories for Action

TexPIRG

The Arc of the United States

Toxic Free NC

U.S. PIRG

UPSTREAM

WashPIRG

Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

WISPIRG

Women for a Healthy Environment

Women's Voices for the Earth

Wu Yee Children's Services