
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING REVIEW OF EXISTING REPORTS AND STUDIES RELATED TO
ASPARTAME AND RECISSION OF APPROVAL OF ASPARTAME FOR UNITED
STATES MARKETS.

1 WHEREAS, aspartame was originally developed as a drug to
2 treat peptic ulcers; and
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4 WHEREAS, manufacturers state that aspartame is made up of
5 forty per cent aspartic acid, fifty per cent phenylalanine, and
6 ten per cent methanol; and
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8 WHEREAS, aspartic acid is a nonessential amino acid that is
9 used by the body to initiate apoptosis, or cell death, in aging
10 cells, and that excess aspartic acid from aspartame consumption
11 causes apoptosis in healthy cells that may destroy healthy brain
12 tissue; and
13

14 WHEREAS, phenylalanine is an essential amino acid found
15 naturally in protein, but when isolated, becomes neurotoxic,
16 lowers the seizure threshold, depletes serotonin triggering
17 psychiatric and behavioral problems, and interacts with
18 antidepressants and other drugs; and
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20 WHEREAS, methanol is a severe metabolic poison classified
21 as a narcotic that converts to formaldehyde and formic acid, and
22 can embalm living tissue and damage DNA; and
23

24 WHEREAS, aspartame metabolites include formaldehyde, a
25 "class A" carcinogen, diketopiperazine, a brain tumor agent, and
26 formic acid; and
27

28 WHEREAS, in 1974, the United States Food and Drug
29 Administration approved aspartame as an artificial sweetener,
30 but asked its manufacturer, Searle, to hold back from marketing
31 it until further tests could be made with regard to its safety;
32 and
33



1 WHEREAS, scientific data revealed that there was a problem
2 with aspartame safety data and the United States Food and Drug
3 Administration withdrew its approval; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 1975, the United States Food and Drug
6 Administration initiated an investigation into Searle's
7 laboratory practices and discovered fraud in scientific
8 experiments as well as manipulated data giving favorable results
9 proving aspartame to be safe; and
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11 WHEREAS, the results of this investigation are included in
12 *The Bressler Report* by Jerome Bressler; and
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14 WHEREAS, in 1980, Dr. John Olney submitted scientific data
15 to a United States Food and Drug Administration Public Board of
16 Inquiry showing that aspartic acid, the excitotoxic ingredient
17 in aspartame, caused holes in the brains of mice; and
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19 WHEREAS, Dr. Olney stated that it warranted special
20 emphasis that excitotoxins act by an acute but silent mechanism
21 requiring only a single exposure to toxic concentrations for CVO
22 neurons to be quietly destroyed; and
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24 WHEREAS, Dr. Olney further stated that Searle failed to
25 establish the safety of its product, aspartame, for use in
26 children's food, and that all age comparative data support the
27 following conclusions: (1) orally administered excitotoxins
28 destroy CVO neurons at any age; (2) immature animals are most
29 vulnerable; and (3) the toxic threshold increases only gradually
30 between birth and adulthood; and
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32 WHEREAS, in 1980, the Public Board of Inquiry unanimously
33 voted against aspartame approval, but was overruled by a new
34 United States Food and Drug Administration Commissioner, Dr.
35 Arthur Hull Hayes, against the advice of Food and Drug
36 Administration scientific personnel and advisers; and
37

38 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration
39 approved aspartame use in sodas, despite the National Soft Drink
40 Association's vehement arguments against aspartame as indicated
41 by these quotes from their protest:
42

- 43 (1) "The present record does not contain data which
44 demonstrate that the use of APM in soft drinks will



1 not result in the adulteration of the beverages under
2 section 402(a)(3) of the FDC Act 21 U.S.C. 342(a)(3),
3 which provides that a food is adulterated if it
4 contains, in whole or in part, "a decomposed substance
5 or if it is otherwise unfit for food";
6

7 (2) "An important decomposition product of aspartame,
8 aspartic acid, cannot be detected at all using TLC";
9

10 (3) "G. D. Searle and Company has not demonstrated to a
11 reasonable certainty that the use of aspartame in soft
12 drinks, without quantitative limitations, will not
13 adversely affect human health as a result of the
14 changes such use is likely to cause in brain chemistry
15 and under certain reasonably anticipated conditions of
16 use"; and
17

18 (4) "Specifically, Searle has not met its burdens under
19 section 409...to demonstrate that aspartame is safe
20 and functional for use in soft drinks. Collectively,
21 the extensive deficiencies in the stability studies
22 conducted by Searle to demonstrate that aspartame and
23 its degradation products are safe in soft drinks
24 intended to be sold in the United States, render those
25 studies inadequate and unreliable." Senate
26 Congressional Record, May 7, 1985, S5507-5511; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has
29 compiled a list of ninety-two symptoms attributed to aspartame
30 consumption including four types of seizures, coma, and death;
31 and
32

33 WHEREAS, the European Foundation for Oncology in Italy
34 conducted exhaustive studies over three years with thousands of
35 rats, and proved aspartame to be a multipotential carcinogen,
36 confirming the United States Food and Drug Administration's
37 original findings; and
38

39 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration
40 admitted that aspartame caused cancer over two decades ago when
41 the Administration's toxicologist, Dr. Adrian Gross, testified
42 to Congress at least one of Searle's studies "has established
43 beyond any reasonable doubt that aspartame is capable of
44 inducing brain tumors in experimental animals and that this



1 predisposition of it is of extremely high significance....In
2 view of these indications that the cancer causing potential of
3 aspartame is a matter that had been established way beyond any
4 reasonable doubt, one can ask: What is the reason for the
5 apparent refusal by the FDA to invoke for this food additive the
6 so-called Delaney Amendment to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act?
7 Given the cancer causing potential of aspartame how would the
8 FDA justify its position that it views a certain amount of
9 aspartame as constituting an allowable daily intake or 'safe'
10 level of it? Is that position in effect not equivalent to
11 setting a 'tolerance' for this food additive and thus a
12 violation of that law? And if the FDA itself elects to violate
13 the law, who is left to protect the health of the public?"
14 Congressional Record, August 1, 1985, SID835:131; and
15

16 WHEREAS, aspartame is linked to sudden death, multiple
17 sclerosis, lupus, and many neurodegenerative diseases, as cited
18 in many medical texts, most notably: *Aspartame Disease: An*
19 *Ignored Epidemic*, by H.J. Roberts, M.D., and *Excitotoxins: The*
20 *Taste That Kills*, by Russell Blaylock, M.D.; and
21

22 WHEREAS, on November 3, 1987, Dr. Louis Elsas testified
23 before Congress: "I am a pediatrician, a Professor of
24 Pediatrics at Emory and have spent twenty-five years in the
25 biomedical sciences, trying to prevent mental retardation and
26 birth defect caused by excess phenylalanine, and therein lies my
27 basic concern, that aspartame is in fact a well known neurotoxin
28 and teratogen which, in some as yet undefined dose, will. . .
29 irreversibly in the developing child or fetal brain, produce
30 adverse effects"; and
31

32 WHEREAS, there are tens of thousands of case histories and
33 anecdotal accounts from victims of aspartame poisoning who have
34 come forward to make their case histories known; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
38 of 2009, that the Department of Health is respectfully requested
39 to create, within its existing budget, an evidentiary repository
40 accessible to the public for patients and physicians to submit
41 their cases involving victims of aspartame poisoning over the
42 next year; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is
 2 respectfully requested to report to the Legislature on the
 3 status of the evidentiary repository during periodic interim
 4 meetings with the Chairs of the Hawaii State Senate Committees
 5 on Health and Human Services and the State Attorney General; and
 6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
 8 respectfully requested to review and evaluate all existing
 9 reports, studies, experiments, and related literature on
 10 aspartame, including clinical studies, differentiating each
 11 study by its funding source, and submit a report on its
 12 evaluation to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
 13 the convening of the 2010 Regular Session; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Academy of
 16 Sciences is respectfully requested to review all existing
 17 reports, studies, experiments, and related literature on
 18 aspartame, including clinical studies, differentiating each
 19 study by its funding source, and that, if funding is required to
 20 undertake this extended evaluation, that the appropriate funding
 21 be sought from various foundations and from Congress; and
 22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that given the enormous amount of
 24 accumulated evidence concerning the neurodegenerative harm
 25 aspartame can cause, that the United States Food and Drug
 26 Administration is respectfully requested to rescind approval of
 27 aspartame immediately on a phase-out basis over six months to
 28 one year; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Secretary of
 31 Health and Human Services, is respectfully requested to order
 32 the United States Food and Drug Administration to rescind the
 33 approval of aspartame; and
 34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United
 36 States is also respectfully requested to issue a presidential
 37 order to rescind the approval of aspartame; and
 38

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 40 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
 41 United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, members of
 42 Hawaii's Congressional delegation, the Commissioner of the
 43 United States Food and Drug Administration, the Executive
 44 Director of the National Academy of Sciences, the State Director



1 of Health, the State Director of Human Services, the State
2 Attorney General, and the State Director of Commerce and
3 Consumer Affairs.
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OFFERED BY:

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