

Date: January 22, 2024

Bill number: HB2446

Opponent

Self

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nancy Muma, I have Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology, and am the Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at KU School of Pharmacy. I'm speaking to you today as a citizen and a scientist not as a representative of KU.

I urge you to vote against HB2446 that prevents municipalities from regulating single-use plastics, such as single-use plastic bags. HB2446 goes against what most Kansans want. 40% of all plastics produced are single-use plastics so reducing single-use plastics can have a big impact. Plastics break down over time into smaller and smaller particles. These tiny micro- and nano-plastic particles are in the air we breathe, the water we drink and accumulate in our bodies. The average American takes in about a credit card size worth of plastic each week. That's a lot of plastic!

Many additives to plastics are endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), such as BPA and other bisphenols, phthalates, and poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances. EDCs alter our hormones (including estrogens and testosterone) and our reproductive systems. Children and developing unborn children are especially vulnerable to these toxins, but they affect us at all stages of life causing heart disease, obesity, and cancers. A January 12th Wall Street Journal article reported a "sharp global rise in cancers in people under 50, with the highest rates in North America, Australia and western Europe."

Exposure to these EDCs in plastics is a major contributor to disease in the United States and the costs to society are greater than 1% of the US gross domestic product. An article published in the Journal of the Endocrine Society on January 11, found that the disease burden attributable to EDCs used in the manufacture of plastics added up to almost \$250 billion in 2018 alone.

The good news is that you can help solve this costly and life-threatening problem by voting against HB 2446 and supporting regulations to reduce the use of these toxic single-use plastics.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nancy A. Muma
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