



**STOCKBRIDGE FAMILY MEDICINE**

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12/19/03

To the FDA,

I am petitioning the FDA to have all food products which contain gluten, a natural, but known *toxic* polypeptide, be marked with a simple but clear warning, e.g. a logo of wheat or something similar,

I have had clinical experience with gluten sensitive patients who can have protean clinical manifestations, which are often difficult to diagnose. (See enclosed articles from the NEJM regarding this health problem)

I believe that the presence of gluten in so many food products is a major health problem that remains below the radar of the medical establishment given that the prevalence of gluten sensitivity is about 1 in 300 people, combined with the long term toxicity of gluten in sensitive individuals.

I submit that food labeling of gluten containing foods be considered and implemented. There is no environmental impact of doing this, and the only information that I know to which this petition would be unfavorable is resistance from wheat farmers given that gluten is a toxic substance in susceptible individuals.

The undersigned certifies, that, to the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, this petition includes all information and views on which the petition relies, and that it includes representative data and information known to the petition which are unfavorable to the petition.

Yours Truly,

Todd R. LePine, MD

2003P.0526

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