



# University of Pittsburgh

*University Child Development Center*

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April 1, 2004

Lester M. Crawford, D.V.M., Ph.D.  
Deputy Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers lane (HF-1/14-71/PLKN)  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Deputy Commissioner Crawford;

In my role as a school administrator with several children suffering from peanut allergies and as an aunt with a nephew suffering from the same I want to prevail upon you to develop a clear, consistent policy regarding the recall of foods with undeclared allergens, a policy that would protect millions of children who have food allergies.

Every day, my staff (and my sister) read labels and do their best to try to insure that we are not serving anything with any peanut or peanut by-products in it, but knowing that we cannot trust the labels/food leaves us with a sense of terror, on a daily basis. The children I speak of, suffering from these peanut allergies, are so young – and to have their lives threatened because of an inconvenience does not seem remotely fair.

In our school we have already declared us as a “peanut free environment” and everyone, including the teachers, parents, and even the midnight shift of maintenance people have taken a pledge to keep the school peanut free, but how can we succeed if we cannot trust the accuracy of ingredients labels, nor know that the FDA will take action for mislabeled products.

It is crucial to have the FDA take charge and recall food items with undeclared allergens. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Sherry M. Cleary  
Director – University Child Development Center  
Assistant Professor – School of Education

Cc: Arlen Specter  
Rick Santorum  
Mike Doyle

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