

## **Stand for Health Freedom Urges Tennessee Lawmakers to Vote NO on SB 527 / HB 809: Pesticide Liability Shield Bills Threaten Farmers and Consumers**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Nashville, TN — Stand for Health Freedom (SHF), a national nonprofit dedicated to protecting individual rights and health sovereignty, calls on Tennessee legislators to reject SB 527 and HB 809, dubbed the “Pesticide Liability Shield Bills.”

SB 527 and HB 809 grant immunity to pesticide manufacturers and sellers, like Bayer—the bill’s mastermind—for any civil action tied to product labeling, including failure-to-warn claims, as long as the label is approved by the EPA under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

Bayer has been heavily lobbying the legislation. Bayer founded the Modern Ag Alliance in 2024 specifically to pass legislation to shield them from label-related and failure-to-warn civil actions, according to *CropLife*. Modern Ag Alliance has bombarded the state with radio ads and billboards in support of glyphosate.

“This isn’t ‘just a label bill,’ as proponents claim,” says Bernadette Pajer, the volunteer Tennessee Director of SHF. “It’s a corporate shield that slams the door on justice for Tennesseans harmed by pesticides, even those manufactured by China-owned Syngenta. If pesticide companies are not subject to failure-to-warn claims and claims related to the label, those who suffer injury to themselves or their property have no legal recourse.”

Proponents argue these bills protect farmers’ “crop protection tools” and prevent food inflation. “Hogwash,” counters Pajer. “Bayer’s the only one threatening to pull glyphosate products if these bills don’t pass, but its patent expired in 2000—other companies produce it, including one in Missouri. It’s likely an empty threat, but if not, farmers who want to continue using glyphosate have alternatives.”

SHF contends that the eventual end of glyphosate is being driven primarily by its mounting failure and health risks. Massive use has created glyphosate-resistant superweeds. And glyphosate has been extensively studied for its potential health risks from direct exposure, including cancer, endocrine disruption, organ damage, and neurological effects, with growing evidence of subtler harms from contaminated food, like gut dysbiosis and cumulative toxicity.

Bayer has stated they have a glyphosate replacement product in development with a 2028 targeted release date. “I think Bayer’s new product is really what these bills are all about,” says Pajer. “The only incentive Bayer has to properly evaluate their new product for safety and to submit an accurate label to the EPA with all safety risks listed, is the threat of litigation, especially the threat of failure-to-warn claims. If these bills pass, Bayer is looking at a billion dollar golden-geese product, with no accountability for product harms. This is a potential disaster.”

Similar bills are being run in Georgia, North Dakota, Missouri, Oklahoma, Iowa, Florida, Idaho, and Montana. Several of those states rejected the bills in 2024, but Bayer lobbyists brought them back in 2025.

SHF contends that states and the federal government should be helping farmers move away from chemical farming and transition to regenerative, organic methods, aligning with President Trump’s March 6 pledge during his Joint Address to Congress: “Our goal is to get toxins out of our environment, poisons out of our food supply, and keep our children healthy and strong.”

SHF urges Tennesseans to contact the Senate Judiciary Committee before Monday’s noon vote and the House Judiciary Committee before Wednesday’s vote. Pajer says, “These bills aren’t about protecting farmers—they’re about protecting profits. Vote NO on SB 527 and HB 809.”

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### *About Stand for Health Freedom:*

Stand for Health Freedom (SHF) is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting informed consent, parental rights, religious freedom, freedom of speech, and privacy.

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