March 11, 2020

Mr. Miguel Patricio  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Kraft Heinz Company  
One PPG Place, Suite 3200  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Dear Mr. Patricio:

The undersigned organizations and community leaders write to urge The Kraft Heinz Company to identify and remove any sources of the toxic food-contact chemicals called phthalates from your food processing equipment and food packaging, and to work with your suppliers to identify and eliminate any phthalates from your entire supply chain, including from dairy products.

We are all dedicated to raising awareness of toxic chemicals that can harm brain development, contributing to learning, developmental, behavior and attention disabilities. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 in 6 American children have a learning or developmental disability1. The National Academy of Sciences estimates that environmental factors, including toxic chemicals, cause or contribute to at least a quarter of learning and developmental disabilities in American children2.

We are dedicated to advocating for food preparation, packaging and production practices that support the health and wellbeing of communities and ask that Kraft Heinz be an industry leader in this area by ensuring its supply chain is free of phthalates.

Scientific studies show that daily cumulative exposure to phthalates poses unacceptable health risks to pregnant women and young children. Elevated phthalate exposure has been found to interfere with the reproductive functions of both men and women and impede brain development in children. For most people, the food we eat is the greatest exposure pathway to phthalates. Foods that are fattier and more processed tend to have the highest phthalate levels.

In Europe, most phthalates are banned from food-contact use3. Market leaders like Nestle have prohibited all phthalates in their packaging. Yet in the United States, phthalates are still permitted in food-contact

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2 Scientific Frontiers in Developmental Toxicology and Risk Assessment, Executive Summary, http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=9871&page=1, National Academy of Sciences Committee on Developmental Toxicology.

materials in food processing (dairy farm equipment, plastic tubing, conveyor belts), food packaging (cap gaskets, printing inks, adhesives), and food preparation (plastic disposable gloves).

**Given these preventable health risks, don’t you want to make a greater effort to replace any toxic food-contact chemicals in your supply chain with safer alternatives?**

Mr. Patricio, we are asking the Kraft Heinz Company to make a clear commitment to healthy children for all of your customers by:

1. Matching the commitment of Nestle by prohibiting any and all phthalates in your food packaging, including cap gaskets, printing inks, and adhesives; and

2. Identifying the presence of any phthalates in every part of food processing equipment and replacing that equipment with non-phthalate alternatives. This screening and replacement process should be a global endeavor.

3. Publicly committing to work with your suppliers to phase out the use of any phthalates in dairy farm equipment and other upstream sources in your supply chain.

Thank you for your consideration and thoughtful response to this request. We stand ready to provide support and acknowledge your progress toward ensuring the safety of your food supply chain. We can be reached through Brandon Moore of the Environmental Health Strategy Center at 207-699-0805 or bmoore@ourhealthyfuture.org.

Sincerely,

Tracy Gregoire
Healthy Children Project Coordinator
Learning Disabilities Association of America

**Disability & Health Organizations:**

Katie Huffling, RN, MS, CNM, FAAN, Executive Director, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Maureen Swanson, Director Environmental Risk Reduction & Project TENDR, The Arc of the United States

Kim Musheno, Vice President of Public Policy, Autism Society of America

Erin Prangley, Policy Director, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Tamara Massey Garrett, State President, Learning Disabilities Association of Alabama

Matthew Talley, President, Learning Disabilities Association of Alaska
Kaci Smith, Special Education Teacher and Secretary, Learning Disabilities Association of Arkansas

Joan Teach, President, Learning Disabilities Association of Georgia

Bev Johns, President Elect, Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois

Patty Useem, MA in Learning Disabilities, President of Learning Disabilities Association of Indiana, Director of Educational Solutions, Illinois

Vicki Goshon, President, Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa

Gene Maxim, Vice President, Learning Disabilities Association of Maine

Jaime Brown, President, Learning Disabilities Association of Maryland

Regina Carey, Past President, Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan

Martha Moriarty, Executive Director, LDA Minnesota

Leslie Rubinstein, President, Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey

Kathryn Cappella, Treasurer, Learning Disabilities Association of New York

JoAnna J. Barnes, President, Learning Disabilities Association of North Carolina

Holly Hunt, Secretary and Associate Professor, Learning Disabilities Association of Oklahoma

Dr. Amy Gregory, Board Member, Principal, Learning Disabilities Association of South Carolina

Dr. Joy Marsh, President, Learning Disabilities Association of Tennessee

Pam Smith, RN, Healthy Children Project Coordinator, Learning Disabilities Association of Texas

Gaylia Tanner, Board Member, Learning Disabilities Association of Utah

Diane Sixel, President, Learning Disabilities Association of Wisconsin

Barbara Rodriguez-Rath, MSW, Chief Executive Officer, The Arc of Anchorage

Leo V. Sarkissian, Executive Director, The Arc of Massachusetts

Carrie Hobbs Guiden, Executive Director, The Arc Tennessee

**Health and Education Experts**

I. Leslie Rubin MD, Medical Director, The Rubin Center for Autism and Developmental Pediatrics and Founder, Break the Cycle of Health Disparities, Inc., Georgia

Mark A. Mitchell, MD MPH FACPM, George Mason University, Connecticut
Russ Hauser MD, ScD, MPH, Chair, Department of Environmental Health, Frederick Lee Hisaw Professor of Reproductive Physiology, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Massachusetts

Deborah Bennett, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, School of Medicine, University of California, Davis

Robin M. Whyatt, DrPH, Professor Emeritus, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia Universities, New York

Devon Payne-Sturges, DrPH, Assistant Professor, Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health, University of Maryland

Bruce P. Lanphear, MD, MPH, Professor, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC

Carolyn P. Kingsley, M.Ed, Georgia

Monica E. Unseld, Ph.D, MPH, Research Associate, Kentucky

Ginny Mott, Legislative Chair, Maine Parent Teacher Association

Dr Ann Johnson, PsyD, Psychologist, Maine

Susan Davis Doughty, MSN, WHNP-BC, Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner, Maine

Lindy S. Grigel MHP, PA-C, Physician Assistant, Maine

Kathy Chao, Master Special Education, Special Education Teacher, New Jersey

Hetlena Johnson, EdS, Lupus CSC Chronic Illness Advocate, South Carolina

Dr. Analisa L Smith, EdD, Abled Learning Academics, South Carolina

Anne Fogel, Baby Read Coordinator, South Carolina

Dr Sue Marsh, EdD, Tennessee

Dr Louis Allen, MD, MPH, FAAP, Pediatric Development Consultant, Utah