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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

¹ Zablotsky B, Black LI, Maenner MJ, Schieve LA, Danielson ML, Bitsko RH, Blumberg SJ, Kogan MD, Boyle CA. Prevalence and Trends of Developmental Disabilities among Children in the US: 2009–2017. *Pediatrics*. 2019; 144(4):e20190811. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/developmentaldisabilities/about.html>.

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.

³ Eur-Lex Access to European Union Law, Document 32011R0010, Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 on Plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, 2011, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/LSU/?uri=CELEX:32011R0010>.



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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 Prangle, Policy Director, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

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

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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

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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

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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

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