



February 10, 2026

Rep. David Durfee
Chair, House Committee on Agriculture and Food Resilience
Vermont House of Representatives
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

A2LA Written Testimony in support of H. 536 – Toxic Heavy Metals in Baby Food Products

Dear Honorable Durfee and Committee Members,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide a written testimony directed at H. 536, specifically as it pertains to laboratory testing and accreditation standards.

By way of background, the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation, (A2LA), is a non-profit accreditation body with over 4500 actively accredited certificates representing all 50 states and international, and 6 organizations accredited in Vermont including the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory that tests food commodities and environment samples. We are headquartered in Frederick, Maryland and have been granting accreditation to laboratories in various industries since 1979.

The criteria forming the basis for our laboratory accreditation program is ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. We ourselves, as an accreditation body, have been evaluated against rigorous standards in providing this accreditation service and are recognized globally as meeting the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011.

When conducting testing for toxic metals, especially in a product such as baby food, the ensuing test results are critical to all parties involved. It is crucial that testing be conducted by a technically competent laboratory who has been accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 by an accreditation body who is a signatory to the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated.

To achieve ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, the laboratory must show that it has implemented a quality management system, demonstrates technically competent testing, has current records of qualified personnel, and maintains appropriate facilities and testing equipment. This provides the users of the test reports, and the consumers, with confidence in the data.

This approach will provide an independent, private sector oversight that will determine, through regular on-site assessments (typically biennial), that the testing laboratories have demonstrated that they continue to operate at an accredited level.

We would be pleased to provide more background and elaborate on our comments at your convenience. The Committee is welcome to consider us as a resource when considering legislation that includes testing, inspection, and accreditation matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randall Query', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Randall Query
Director Government Relations
American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)