

January 29, 2020

Congresswoman Grace Meng (NY-06)
Statement to the Energy and Commerce Committee

Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Subcommittee Chair Eshoo, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Burgess, I write to express my support and gratitude for today's hearing, which includes my bill – H.R. 2267 – the Infant Formula Protection Act. I also want to thank Representative Kuster for her support of the bill.

As a mom, I know the fear and the pressure that comes with caring for a newborn; all a new parent wants is to make sure their baby is healthy and safe. Busy parents need to be able to rely on the safety of products, like formula, that they purchase from grocery stores to make sure their newborns are well-fed and healthy. Unfortunately, grocery stores that stock expired formula – even by just a few days – pose real health risks to infants.

Although regulations require expiration dates to be placed on formula, there is no federal law that prohibits the sale of the product after it has expired. As a result, many stores continue to keep the expired items on their shelves even though the products are outdated.

That is why I introduced the Infant Formula Protection Act of 2019, which would categorize expired infant formula as “adulterated.” A grocery store that stocks an adulterated substance can incur fines and other penalties. We cannot take any chances with what we feed our babies, and parents must be able to trust the safety of the products that they buy in their stores.

One of the first bills I ever introduced since becoming a Member of Congress, back in the 113th Congress, the Infant Formula Protection Act is one that is near and dear to my heart. I am grateful for your careful consideration of this bill today. I hope to see it further advance through this committee, and finally enacted into law. Thank you again, to the Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Subcommittee Chair Eshoo, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Burgess, for supporting the needs and health of our families.