



February 10, 2025

Members of the House Education Committee

RE: Opposition to House Bill 5115

The International Association of Color Manufacturers (IACM) is respectfully opposed to HB 5115 because it is unnecessary and unscientific. IACM is the association representing the global color industry, comprised of manufacturers and end-users of natural and synthetic color additives that are used in foods, drugs, and cosmetics.

In the United States, all color additives must be approved for use before they can be used in food, drugs or cosmetics via submission of a Color Additive Petition. The FDA regulates the safety and labeling of all color additives, and it does so based on scientific evidence. The FDA also evaluates any new available evidence on an on-going basis. Every color additive has undergone an extensive evaluation within the United States using a safety testing regime that is outlined and required by the FDA. Any color additive used in the U.S. has met all safety requirements by the FDA. If they do not, they are not on the market. It's as simple as that.

Internationally, many expert bodies, including the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Health Canada, and the FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committee (JECFA) have similar color safety approval and evaluation programs in place. The color additives in scope of this legislation are all widely approved for safe use both in the U.S. and globally.

Sales of some foods that would be banned help schools pay to cover unreimbursed costs of providing students free or reduced cost meals. This bill would complicate school nutrition programs, resulting in increased costs and fewer options for school nutrition professionals. Importantly, removing safe colors from food served in schools will not impact the number of healthy foods offered to children or reduce the number of processed foods served in schools. Rather, it would decrease the options for foods that provide kids valuable nutrients with no benefit to their health.

IACM remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the highest safety standards for color additives used in consumer products and firmly believes in evidence-based decision-making rooted in sound scientific assessments. But restrictions as proposed in HB 5115 are scientifically unfounded and will not benefit Rhode Island students and schools.

IACM invites you to visit our public [Color Library](#) to learn more about the color additives that are used in the U.S. and globally.

We thank you for your consideration of our comments, but we respectfully urge you to oppose HB 5115.