

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1011

April 21, 2025

Robert Ford
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Abbott
100 Abbott Park Road
Abbott Park, IL 60064

Dear Mr. Ford,

I write regarding the recent report of toxic chemicals, including lead and inorganic arsenic, found in several infant formulas produced by Abbott Nutrition.¹ Infant formula is essential for parents feeding their newborns, regardless of whether the formula is used exclusively or as a supplement. Every parent wants to ensure that their infants are being fed in a way that is both safe and healthy.

According to 2021 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 25% of breastfed infants in Georgia were fed formula within 2 days of age.² Through 6 months of age, approximately 71% of all infants in Georgia had been fed formula (or other supplementation) as at least a portion of their diet.³

Children are simply precious. They're everything to us. Their safety and well-being, including the safety of formula consumed by infants, are our highest concerns. For the safety of Georgia's infants, I ask that you please provide an answer to the below questions in writing within two weeks.

1. What safety analysis procedures are currently in place to test your infant formulas to ensure there are no unsafe levels of toxic chemicals, including lead and arsenic?

¹ Kirchner, L. (2025, March 18). *We Tested 41 Baby Formulas for Lead and Arsenic*. Consumer Reports.

<https://www.consumerreports.org/babies-kids/baby-formula/baby-formula-contaminants-test-results-a7140095293/>.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity: Data, Trends and Maps, n.d. <https://dnbao-dtm-cr.services.cdc.gov/?locationIds=59,13>.

³ *Id.*

2. Are you contemplating additional steps to strengthen your current processes to prevent potential hazards in the future? If so, please share any updates or timelines to implement these changes.

3. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced a new initiative, “Operation Stork Speed” which has a stated goal of ensuring the nation’s infant formula supply is safe and nutritious.⁴ How do you plan to engage with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as they undertake a formal review of all infant formulas as part of “Operation Stork Speed?”

Thank you for your prompt attention to these questions. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2025, March 18). HHS, FDA Announce Operation Stork Speed to Expand Options for Safe, Reliable, and Nutritious Infant Formula for American Families. <https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/operation-stork-speed.html>.