



**645 Farmington Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06105  
860-232-6232**

We support bill H.B. No. 5234- Safe School Grounds Bill.

The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut is an exciting new project that unites health, scientists, labor, environment and children's health advocates around preventing harm to our health from toxic hazards. Toxic Chemicals are contributing to an epidemic of chronic diseases. We are calling for new policies to replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives in everyday products, building materials, and in other common sources of hazardous chemicals in our daily lives.

### **Protect Our Health**

Over 180 illnesses and disabilities are now linked to toxic chemicals. Scientific evidence increasingly indicates that toxic chemicals in everyday life contribute to the growing epidemic of chronic diseases and disorders, including: asthma, birth defects, cancer, developmental disabilities, diabetes, endometriosis, Parkinson's disease and infertility.

Many hazardous chemicals can be replaced with safer alternatives. Safer substances, safer chemicals, safer manufacturing processes, and more efficient operations can all reduce hazardous substances in consumer products, at workplaces and businesses, in homes, on land, and in air, water and food. By helping Connecticut manufacturers make the transition to safer substances and processes, we can reduce illnesses and health care costs, reduce developmental disabilities in children and special education costs, reduce pollution, and improve worker, community and environmental health.

### **Lawn Pesticides**

- The National Academy of Sciences reports that children are more susceptible to chemicals than adults and estimates that 50% of lifetime pesticide exposure occurs during the first five years of life.
- EPA concurs that children take in more pesticides relative to body weight than adults and have developing organ systems that are more vulnerable and less able to detoxify toxic chemicals.
- Studies link some lawn pesticides to hyperactivity, developmental delays, behavioral disorders, and motor dysfunction.
- Studies show that children living in households where pesticides are used suffer elevated rates of leukemia, brain cancer and soft tissue sarcoma. (Leiss, J. et al. 1995. *American Journal of Public Health*).
- It makes no sense for our children to be involuntarily exposed to unnecessary use of these toxic chemicals especially when there are safe, effective, affordable alternatives.