

Written testimony of **Amelia M. Borkowski, RN, BSN**, on behalf of the **Connecticut Association of Parish Nurses**, Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 2, 2009.

Testimony in Support of: HB 6572 and SB 919

Chairman Meyer, Chairman Roy, and members of the Environmental Committee:

My testimony is in support of HB 6572 and SB 919. My name is Amelia M. Borkowski, residing in West Hartford. I represent the Connecticut Association of Parish Nurses, which has identified environmental health issues, and specifically the reduction of unnecessary toxins, as an important focus for our organization. I am registered nurse, member of Connecticut Nurses Association, and mother and concerned citizen. As a citizen, it is my moral obligation to protect children. As a mother and future grandmother, I support these bills to protect my future family. As a nurse, it is my professional responsibility to protect our environment and all people.

BPA

In April, 2008, Canada proposed to designate BPA as a “toxic” chemical and move toward banning it in baby bottles. By taking this action, Canadian government officials expressed concern that young children are being exposed to BPA at levels that could cause health effects. It is time to act immediately to protect future generations from toxic chemicals. I hope that the bill your committee passes will do three things: (1) quickly ban BPA in baby bottles, infant formula containers, and other products for young children, (2) set in motion a phase-out of BPA in all food containers, including soup cans, beverage cans, and reusable storage containers, and (3) require labeling while this phase-out is taking place, so that consumers are not left in the dark.

PBDEs

As a health professional, I am concerned about fire safety, and understand that some fire retardants are needed to keep certain materials safe. That

said, **toxic, brominated flame retardants have no place in furniture or electronics**, where they end up in house-dust and the bodies of young children and pets, and of course the environment as a whole. As with BPA, there are safer alternatives, and they should be used. That is why I am so supportive of SB 919.

Right now, consumers do not know what chemicals are in their baby or consumer products. No adult would knowingly expose their children toymakers toxic chemicals. Toymakers and producers of consumer products need to label their products and demonstrate that the chemicals they use are safe. They also need to use safer alternatives that are available. Government agencies need to protect U. S. citizens, especially their young. I thank you all for attention to this detrimental issue and please ask for your support in passing these bills.

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