

Yale University



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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

AN ACT CONCERNING BANNING BISPHENOL-A IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS AND FOOD PRODUCT CONTAINERS AND PROHIBITING CERTAIN ALTERNATIVE SUBSTANCES. H.B. 6572

Environment Committee
March 2, 2009

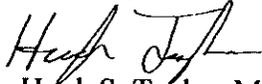
My name is Dr. Hugh Taylor, Professor and Director of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Yale University. I would like to thank Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and the distinguished members of the Environment Committee for their recognition of the devastating effects that bisphenol A (BPA) can have on the health of Connecticut's residents.

I have studied the effects of BPA on the human reproductive system for several years and in 2008 co-authored a comprehensive report titled *Plastics That May be Harmful to Children and Human Health*, http://www.ehhi.org/reports/plastics/ehhi_plastics_report_2008.pdf, which detailed the harm to human health from two chemicals, BPA and phthalates. Thankfully, the reduction of the use of phthalates in children's products has been addressed at the federal level. I refer to the BPA segment of this report as the scientific portion of my testimony.

To summarize, nearly 100 billion pounds of plastic are produced in the United States each year. Plastics are now heavily used in food and beverage packaging, building products, electrical wiring, vehicles, furniture, toys, and medical devices. Plastics now comprise nearly 70% of the synthetic chemical industry in the nation. There is increasing evidence that BPA disrupts normal growth and development in many different species of animals due to their hormonal activity. The production of BPA has increased steadily since the 1990s, from about 16 million pounds per year in the early 1990s to nearly 2.3 billion pounds in 2007. It is used in the manufacture of clear, hard polycarbonate plastics and epoxy resins. BPA has been detected in the blood and urine of nearly everyone who has been tested. BPA is commonly found in human breast milk and crosses the placenta and the blood-brain barrier. A growing number of government-sponsored scientists believe that effects found in animals may plausibly occur in humans, while manufacturers' scientists vigorously defend their claims of chemical safety. These government-sponsored studies have found that BPA is biologically active at exceptionally small doses in some animals, altering normal patterns of growth and development of a variety of organ systems and functions. Although the U.S. Government has authority under several federal statutes to regulate or prohibit the production, use, sale, and disposal of BPA, it remains virtually unregulated. This is well demonstrated by the chemicals' presence in human tissues. Prior to intense industrial production, use, and environmental release, BPA was not adequately tested to understand its behavior in the environment or its risk to human health. At present, no legal mechanism is in place at any level of government to assure warning or protection against exposure to BPA.

Thank you once again for your attention to this very important issue. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 203-785-4005. I wish you all the best of luck during this very challenging legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh S. Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hugh S. Taylor, MD

Professor and Director

Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

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