

Written Testimony of Karen A. Owen, RN, MSN, before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 2nd, 2009, Testimony in Support of:

Raised HB No. 6572, An Act Banning Bisphenol-A in Children's Products and Food Products and Prohibiting Certain Alternative Substances

Raised SB No. 919, An Act Phasing Out the Use of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee, my testimony is in support of HB 6572 and SB 919.

As a mother, school nurse and participant in the body burden project, IsItInUs.org, I want to strongly encourage you to pass this important legislation to protect the mothers, fathers, and children of our state. We know, based on good scientific evidence, that toxic chemicals affect our bodies even at low doses. I am a woman who has suffered from secondary infertility, a situation where I was unable to get pregnant after my first child was born. What if we knew then that the Bisphenol A and PBDEs that I carry in my body could be the reason that I could not procreate again? What if we knew then that the plastic containers that I used to store our food might have a toxic affect on my growing child? What could have done then, what we can do now? We can provide a safer, healthier environment for our mothers, fathers, children and yet unborn children by passing legislation that raises standards that are safer for the human race.

In an effort to protect our children with fire retardant furniture and mattresses, a toxic industrial chemical, Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) was created that we now know creates a number of health concerns including cancer, thyroid dysfunction, which I developed during the time of my evaluation for infertility, as well as other health concerns. My chemical burden (evaluated during the body burden project) showed that I had the highest level of chemicals of all the 35 participants. PBDEs was one of them.

It is time to pass smarter and safer chemical laws to protect the citizens of our state! I want Connecticut to be a LEADER in changing policies and passing legislation to protect us and our environment!

Thank you for the opportunity to write my concerns to you.

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