

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF Khadija Abdul-Salaam, BEFORE THE CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2009.  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF:  
HB 6572 AND SB 919**

Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Roy,  
My name is Khadija Abdul-Salaam, and I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 6572 and SB 919.

I was amazed to find out that BPA is in all can linings, even infant formula can linings. This situation needs to be solved, because children and pregnant women are being exposed. BPA crosses the placenta and fetuses cannot get rid of the chemical. They don't have the enzymes.

I really hope that you as legislators listen to your own constituents, because we mothers and consumers just want to be safe. No one wants to suffer from unnecessary chronic diseases. PBDEs, or the toxic flame retardants, have been linked with poor brain development and may contribute to learning disabilities and behavior changes. In fact, BPA has also been shown to cause behavior changes, including aggression, in animal studies. To me, these facts are particularly worrisome because the statistics on rising rates of ADHD are personal. I've had to make tough decisions about treatment options, and as a parent I feel it is my duty to call on my lawmakers to help prevent other parents from going through what I have been through.

I consider myself an intelligent and well informed consumer, but right now I can't even go into a store and find out if the soup I want to buy is sold in a BPA-containing can. No matter how much I read and learn, I am STUCK IN THE DARK about the chemicals in what I consume and use. I wish that the companies would shift to safer alternatives, but I realize that regulations are needed to push us toward a greener economy and a safer, healthier society.

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