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RAISED BILL No. S.B. 791 AN ACT BANNING BISPHENOL A IN CERTAIN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS.

Chairs Senator Ed Meyer, Representative Richard Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Nancy Alderman. I am President of Environment and Human Health, Inc. a non-profit organization comprised of nine members who are physicians and public health professionals dedicated to protecting human health from environmental harms. We are in strong support of Bill 791.

Bill 791 seeks to ban the chemical bisphenol A (BPA) in consumer products targeted for children under 3. BPA is added to plastics to make them hard and clear. The majority of baby bottles sold today are plastic and contain BPA. As well, BPA is in the lining of cans of infant formula.

The National Toxicology Program (NTP), which is part of the National Institutes of Health, reported in September 2008 "some concern" that BPA harms the human brain and reproductive system, especially in babies and fetuses.

BPA is an endocrine disrupter. It has been found to decrease sperm counts. Studies have shown that when fetuses are exposed, the BPA can affect the female reproductive tract, as well as predisposing mice for prostate and breast abnormalities.

A new study published in Environmental Health Perspectives simulated infant exposure to BPA and found that a young, developing child without a fully matured means to deactivate BPA could be carrying concentrations of the compound that are more than 10-fold higher levels than adults.

One main reason for this difference is due to the fact that a baby's liver enzyme activity is only 5 percent of an adult's. The results suggest that children are very likely to be the most severely affected by exposure to BPA and related endocrine disruptors.

In the study published last week, Lamartiniere and colleagues gave female rats with nursing litters oral doses of BPA. The result: The baby rats matured with higher levels of breast cancer.

In recent years dozens of scientists around the globe have linked BPA to a myriad of health effects in rodents such as mammary and prostate cancer, genital defects in males,

early onset of puberty in females, obesity and even behavior problems such as attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.

This proposed ban will not be a burdensome for Connecticut, as today there are baby bottles being manufactured that do not contain bisphenol A. Manufacturers such as "Born Free", "Think Baby", and "Green to Grow" are all making baby bottles without BPA.

However, a very many of our baby bottles still contain BPA and therefore Connecticut needs to ban them so that there will not be any infants in Connecticut being exposed to BPA through their baby bottles. That ban should take place immediately -- as there are alternatives already on the market.

BPA is also in the lining of the cans of baby formula and therefore exposures are happening to infants in that way as well. Connecticut needs to ban BPA in infant formula cans as well. However companies will need a bit of time to retool and therefore the formula manufacturers should be given a year or two to get BPA out of their formula cans.

EHHI recommends a ban on baby bottles with BPA immediately. We also recommend a ban on BPA in the lining of baby formula cans and all other products targeted for children under the age of three to be banned by 2011.

Thank You,

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
2009 Legislative Session