



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
February 26, 2009**

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Senate Bill 257 - An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticide at Day Care Facilities

The Department of Public Health **opposes** Senate Bill 257.

This proposal restricts the application of pesticides in any building or on the grounds of any child day care center, group day care home and family day care home unless such application is:

- (1) deemed an emergency by the local health director or the Commissioner of Public Health, and;
- (2) applied by a certified pesticide applicator.

This bill raises the following concerns:

- **Costs for Department of Public Health; unfunded mandate for local health departments**

There would be a fiscal impact on the Department of Public Health and local health departments to conduct reviews for approval of emergency pesticide applications and monitor compliance. Currently, there are 45 licensed group day care homes, 1556 licensed child day care centers, and 2631 licensed family day care homes.

- **May delay emergency pesticide applications**

This proposal may delay a needed emergency application of a pesticide to eliminate an immediate risk to children or staff at a facility, such as an application to address bees in a setting where an allergic child is present.

- **Programs in rented space may not control facility operations**

Providers in rented space may not have control over the application of a pesticide at a multiuse building such as a strip mall or multifamily residence. In these settings, the application of a non-emergency pesticide may occur at a facility without the program's consent or knowledge or, alternatively, in other areas of the building causing the day care facility to become a possible site for an infestation.

- **Cost impact to child care programs**

Financial costs to child care programs are imposed by this bill which requires programs to hire a certified pesticide applicator, provide annual written statements on pesticide policies and descriptions to parents and guardians, and provide notice to parents or guardians prior to applications.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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