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**TESTIMONY RE: COMMITTEE BILL 257, AN ACT CONCERNING THE  
APPLICATION OF PESTICIDE AT DAY CARE FACILITIES.**

Committee on Select Committee on Children  
February 26, 2009

**TO:** Senator Anthony Musto, Representative Diana Urban and members of the  
Select Committee on Children  
**FROM:** Mary Jane Williams, RN, PhD, chair, Government Relations Committee,  
Connecticut Nurses' Association

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in Connecticut. I am providing testimony in support of Committee Bill 257, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticide at Day Care Facilities.

This bill will bring Connecticut's day care facilities and group day care homes regulation of pesticides into alignment with our children in schools. It will provide the necessary protection for our youngest and most vulnerable population. The following makes it clear why this is necessary.

**Kids Need Protection**

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/kidpesticide.htm>

Children are at a greater risk for some pesticides for a number of reasons. Children's internal organs are still developing and maturing and their enzymatic, metabolic, and immune systems may provide less natural protection than those of an adult. There are "critical periods" in human development when exposure to a toxin can permanently alter the way an individual's biological system operates. Children may be exposed more to certain pesticides because often they eat different foods than adults.

For instance, children typically consume larger quantities of milk, applesauce, and orange juice per pound of body weight than do adults. Children's behaviors, such as playing on the floor or on the lawn where pesticides are commonly applied, or putting objects in their mouths, increase their chances of exposure to pesticides.

Adverse effects of pesticide exposure range from mild symptoms of dizziness and nausea to serious, long-term neurological, developmental and reproductive disorders. Americans use more than a billion pounds of pesticides each year to combat pests on farm crops, in homes, places of business, schools, parks, hospitals, and other public places.

Thank you for your consideration. Based on the current literature and evidence related to the risks of pesticide exposures, we urge the committee to act favorably on this bill.