



**The Consumer Specialty Products Association  
Testimony In Opposition to House Bill 6597**

**Presented: March 6, 2009  
To: Joint Committee on Public Health**

**Submitted on Behalf Of: Sean Moore, State Affairs Representative**

Chairman Harris, Chairwoman Ritter and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Public Health, my name is Sean Moore and I am State Affairs Representative for the Consumer Specialty Products Association (CSPA). CSPA is testifying today to express our concerns with House Bill 6597. As it is currently drafted, the bill would place unnecessary restrictions on "ready-to-use" pesticides, (such as: repellants, pastes, gels and crack and crevice treatments) which are used to help control and prevent pest infestations at various locations, including daycares.

CSPA is a non-profit trade association representing the interests of approximately 250 companies engaged in the manufacture, formulation, distribution and sale of hundreds of familiar consumer products that help household, institutional and industrial consumers create cleaner and healthier environments. Our products include disinfectants that kill germs in homes, hospitals and restaurants; candles, fragrances and air fresheners that eliminate odors; pest management products for the home; cleaning products for use throughout the home; products used to protect and improve the performance and appearance of automobiles; and a host of other products used every day. Specifically, our members that manufacture pest management products would be directly affected by this bill.

**Pest Management Products Protect Children's Health**

CSPA appreciates that for the purposes of this bill, antimicrobial products and baits are exempted from the definition of a pesticide. Antimicrobial products, such as disinfectants and sanitizers are used every day in a variety of settings and provide many important health protection benefits by limiting the spread of diseases such as **MRSA**, **Norovirus** and the **flu**, as well as controlling the spread of bacteria like **E.coli**, **Shigella** and **Salmonella**. Baits are commonly recommended to reduce exposure to pesticides, are tamper-resistant, and can be left in areas inaccessible to children.

When used in conjunction with proper cleaning techniques, other "ready-to-use" pesticides, such as pastes and gels, serve as a safe and proven means of preventing and eliminating pest infestations. Along with tamper-proof bait stations, these products are commonly recommended alternatives to treating an entire building; they may be placed in areas that are inaccessible to children and are targeted to eliminate and prevent specific pests. Crack and crevice treatments are also frequently recommended as least toxic options to prevent pest infestations. All of these products come with clear and easy to understand instructions, are easy to use and do not require the services of a certified applicator.

CSPA believes that these low-risk pesticides, used in places inaccessible to children, should be afforded the same exemption for antimicrobial products and baits under subsection (a) of this bill. These are preventative measures that, when used in conjunction with proper cleaning practices, can **ultimately reduce the future need for pesticide applications** and reduce children's

exposure to proven asthma triggers like cockroach allergen. They are also commonly used and do not require the services of a certified applicator.

Additionally, a 2005 study by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences found that cockroach allergens exacerbated symptoms of childhood asthma more than other triggers such as dust mites and pet dander. Proper cleaning procedures and proven extermination techniques were recommended to keep these allergens under control.<sup>1</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Daycares need to have the resources to prevent pest infestations before they occur. This ability would reduce the overall need for pesticide applications and benefit children's health by providing a clean and sanitary environment. While House Bill 6597 exempts antimicrobial products and baits from the provisions in this bill, there remain overly stringent requirements on "ready-to-use" pesticides. Repellants, pastes, gels and crack and crevice treatments, can be safely used by an adult without exposing children to the products.

CSPA supports the responsible and judicious use of pesticides and encourages the committee to amend the bill to protect the use of the preventative measures outlined above. CSPA would suggest the attached amendments to address these concerns. We appreciate your consideration of our position on this important issue.

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<sup>1</sup> NIH News. "Cockroach Allergens Have Greatest Impact on Childhood Asthma In Many U.S. Cities." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health. 8 March, 2005. NIH. 3 March, 2009. <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/mar2005/niehs-08.htm>

The Consumer Specialty Products Association

Proposed Amendments to House Bill 6597

Section 1

- (a) As used in this section, (1) “pesticide” means a fungicide used on plants, an insecticide, a herbicide or a rodenticide but does not mean a sanitizer, disinfectant, antimicrobial agent, repellant or a pesticide bait, including pastes or gels, crack and crevice treatments and pesticides exempted from regulation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act [7 U.S.C. § 136w (b)]; [and] “lawn care pesticide” means a pesticide registered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and labeled pursuant to the federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act for use in lawn, garden and ornamental sites or areas...