



ECHO

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February 23, 2007

President
Carolyn Wysocki

Senator Thomas Gaffey, Representative Andrew Fleischmann, members of the Education Committee:

Vice President
Sue Reidermann

My name is Carolyn Wysocki and as President of ECHO, (Ecological Health Organization, Inc.) I am here to voice strong support for HB 6496 An Act Concerning Green Cleaning Products in Schools.

Secretary
Joseph Uricola

In January, 1992-ECHO was formed as a statewide nonprofit, advocacy, support, educational and referral organization for people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) and for others who care about its prevention. Our MCS members are living proof of the linkages between the environment and health. MCS is a chronic disorder in which people develop increased reactions to various chemicals found in products such as pesticides, building materials, fragrances carpets, exhaust, smoke and cleaning products... According to studies conducted by California Department of Health in 1995 and published in *Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Research Reports*, 17-34 % of Americans report symptoms of chemical sensitivity.

Treasurer
Richard Helmecki

MCS affects multiple organ systems (respiratory, digestive, neurological, musculoskeletal, reproductive, cardiovascular) and commonly includes symptoms such as asthma, difficulty breathing and concentrating; migraines; loss of memory, dizziness; muscle pains, and fatigue. Many people with MCS have become symptomatic over a period of time from poor indoor air quality such as in Sick Building Syndrome, while others have been made ill due to a single exposure of a chemical and then physically react to low levels of chemical exposures. There is no known cure for MCS, and the most effective treatment found to date is avoidance of toxic chemicals, a very difficult task in today's world.

Ex. Director
Elaine Tomko

Several of our members are teachers or parents with children in school, so with this Bill you have an opportunity to not only help create a healthier learning environment for the children but also for people with MCS and the community at large. Passage of this Bill would decrease the risk factor of entering a school building for people with MCS create a safer environment for them to participate in their children's school activities, adult education programs, sporting and community events

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristen Aronson

The presence of scented toxic cleaners contributes to poor indoor air quality and is one of the major access barriers for people with asthma and multiple chemical sensitivities according to a recent report by Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (an independent federal agency devoted to accessibility for people with disabilities), <http://ieq.nibs.org/intro.php> Just as the canaries in the coal mines, people with MCS are the human canaries of the 21 Century, warning through our reactions to chemicals that the air in our homes, offices schools and environment are toxic and effecting public health.

Nancy Barton

We are fortunate that Connecticut has taken a leadership roll in the prevention of illnesses related to chemicals and is promoting a Healthier Connecticut through Governor Rell's, Executive Directive #14 and Resolutions to Use Non-Toxic Cleaning Products adopted by Berlin, Hartford, Middlefield, Bridgeport and Greenwich. Lets make all the schools safer and healthier in Connecticut through passage and implementation of Bill 6496

Connie Eash

. Thank you and remember "Prevention is my Intention"

David Evans Esq.

Sincerely,

Richard Helmecki

Carolyn Wysocki, ECHO President

Connie Holbrook MD

Agnes Jonas

Joyce Kowalczyk

Linda Lantz

Dr Mark Mitchell

Sue Riedeman

Elaine Tomko

Joseph Uricola

Carolyn Wysocki

MISSION

To safeguard the health and well-being of the environment and its inhabitants.