

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

Written Testimony of Louis Carta, City of Middletown Department of Health, Before the Connecticut General Assembly Education Committee, February 23, 2009.

**Testimony in Support of: HB 6496, An Act Concerning Green Cleaning in Schools**

Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee,

My name is Louis Carta and my testimony is in support of HB 6496. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views to you about this important issue. As a community health educator, I know that we need to promote safer alternatives to toxic chemicals in our environment and workplaces. I am proud to say that Middletown was one of the first cities to “go green,” and use safer alternatives to hazardous cleaning chemicals in public buildings. We should not have to wait for each town to do this on a case-by-case basis. It is now time for our state government to take action to reduce exposures to toxic chemicals that cause cancer, learning disabilities, and other adverse health effects. Connecticut is already part of the multi-state chemicals clearinghouse, gathering information about toxins and safer alternatives. We also need a framework that enables our state agencies to designate chemicals of high concern, and require companies to shift to safer alternatives when they are found to exist. Green cleaning is a good example of this. A safer alternatives program will help towns like Middletown continue with their precautionary approach, and to protect public health.

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