

Martha Kelly
57 Curtiss Street
Hartford, CT 06106
860-216-5289

February 23, 2009
Testimony before the Education Committee of the CT General Assembly
on **HB 6496, An Act Concerning Green Cleaning in Schools**

I am Martha Kelly and I am a resident of Hartford, a grandmother of two school children, and a tutor in a school. I am here to testify in support of HB 6496, An Act Concerning Green Cleaning in Schools.

I support the positions of the Connecticut Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools. I am a community leader active with the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice and a member of CCEJ's Asthma Speakers' Bureau. I also have asthma, which I developed as an adult.

Please act favorably on this bill. The use of green cleaning products in the context of an integrated Indoor Air Quality program can contribute to the health and good attendance of students, teachers and other staff.

NIOSH attributes 12% of occupational asthma cases to exposure to cleaning chemicals.

In Hartford I was part of a citizen lead effort to adopt Green Cleaning methods in our municipal buildings and schools. Since their adoption I have heard a custodian report that he and his colleagues are feeling better.

Please adopt a measure that would make these positive changes in all Connecticut schools.

It is vital that

- our schools are cleaned with products that are certified as safe by independent third party organizations such as Green Seal or EcoLogo,
- Best practises and modern equipment be used. (Free Training is available for management and staff)
- Transition to Green Cleaning be part of the schools Indoor Air Quality program.

Effective green cleaning and Indoor Air Quality programs have reduced absenteeism in school systems that have adopted them. This has saved money for schools in Syracuse, NY, Lockport, Illinois, and Washington, D.C.

Lots of specific guidance is available from organizations such as the National Working Group for Green Cleaning and Chemical Policy Reform. Please follow the example of the US Department of Interior and the States of Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, etc, by adopting a Green Cleaning standard for Connecticut.

Thank you,

Martha Kelly
57 Curtiss Street
Hartford, CT 06106
860-216-5289