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**Testimony of Gretchen Raffa, Planned Parenthood of Connecticut.
Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, Inc. in support of
HB 6572 *An Act Concerning Banning Bisphenol-A in Children's Products
and Food Products and Prohibiting Certain Alternative Substance***

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee, my name is Gretchen Raffa, Community Organizer for Planned Parenthood of CT testifying in support of HB 6572 *An Act Concerning Banning Bisphenol-A in Children's Products and Food Products and Prohibiting Certain Alternative Substances*. Planned Parenthood of Connecticut's mission is to protect the right of all individuals to control their own fertility. As emerging data has made it increasingly clear that environmental toxins can have a detrimental effect on reproductive health, we as a trusted provider of women's health care are committed to educating our patients about steps they can take to limit their exposure to dangerous chemicals such as Bisphenol-A (BPA).

There is growing scientific evidence that shows some industrial chemicals, called hormone disruptors can cause serious risk for women's health such as infertility, breast cancer, polycystic ovarian syndrome, uterine fibroids, endometriosis, miscarriage, shortened lactation and breast cancer. BPA is a hormone disruptor which can mimic natural estrogen and what we are learning is that the timing and level of exposure can effect how a woman's body develops and functions.

Planned Parenthood of CT and those of us working to promote reproductive justice, have long fought for a woman's right to control her reproductive destiny. We have a growing concern that the complexities of a woman's environment, including her physical geography, race, class, access to healthcare to name a few, can play a debilitating role on her fertility. This is why we have turned our attention to the environmental toxins, such as BPA, that are affecting the ability of women to become pregnant, have a healthy pregnancy, and give birth to a healthy child.

We were shocked to learn that, according to the US National Center for Health Statistics National Survey of Family Growth, US women are experiencing a dramatic increase of impaired fecundity (the biologic capacity of men and women for reproduction). In 1988, just 4.9 million American women reported impaired fecundity but, by the year 2002, that figure climbed to 7.3 million. And while it's tempting to attribute that increase to women delaying pregnancy until later in life, the reality is that younger women are reporting the most significant increases. We were alarmed, for example, to learn that women aged 25 and younger are reporting the most significant increases (41%) in self-identified fertility problems (*Challenged Conceptions: Environmental Chemicals and Fertility October 2005*)

Testing confirms that over 90% of our population carries BPA in their bodies and the time is now to reduce exposures for children and women of childbearing age. We urge you to support HB 6572 *An Act Concerning Banning Bisphenol-A in Children's Products and Food Products and Prohibiting Certain Alternative Substances*. We at Planned Parenthood of CT believe this is an urgent matter and a small step in ensuring reproductive justice so all women can control their own fertility, bear healthy babies and live in safe and healthy communities. Thank you.