

## **HB 6572: An Act Banning Certain Children's Products Containing Bisphenol-A**

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and members of the Environment Committee, my name is David Horn and my testimony is in support of "HB 6572: An Act Banning Certain Children's Products Containing Bisphenol-A." I am a policy student at the University of Connecticut's School of Social Work and an intern at the Connecticut Citizen Action Group.

In the language of chapter 420d of the general statutes hazardous and toxic chemicals are those which cause illness, sickness, or personal injury. Bisphenol-A (BPA) is a hormonally active chemical that mimics the effects of naturally occurring estrogens. BPA's effects in the body are not explained by using the label "not hazardous", yet the plastics industry seems to be using this label to downplay recent independent science-based studies on the chemical's complex effects. We should prohibit products made for young children that have BPA in them because they can be bitten, chewed, or even swallowed in ways that were not intended by the manufacturer. We cannot ignore the recent breakthroughs on xenoestrogens and independent peer-reviewed studies which conclude for example that BPA chemical action may influence fetal development, interact with cancer treatment drugs, and contribute to low sperm counts.

Many companies, small and large, are taking steps to reformulate their products and manufacturing to use green chemicals and clean technologies. Large retailers such as Toys R Us and Wal-Mart have phased out the sale of BPA-containing baby bottles. Innovation is good for business and can help stimulate economic growth through the design and production of safer products. BPA-free baby bottles are cheap; I bought a dozen of them for a dollar fifty each several weeks ago for a panel presentation. Companies that innovate can compete internationally, particularly with the European Union which has modernized its toxic policies.

It would be good for the Connecticut Legislature to Act and replace unnecessary toxins with safer alternatives at this time. Connecticut has a leadership role to play, helping to move other states and the country toward policies that protect our health and the environment. We should find out what there is to gain by acting on this bill and showing the way for other states.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

*David Horn, 203-535-7020, [David.Horn@uconn.edu](mailto:David.Horn@uconn.edu)*