



Susan Bysiewicz  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT

*Testimony in Support of Raised Bill 791  
An Act Banning Bisphenol-A in Certain Children's Products  
Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz  
March 2, 2009*

Distinguished Co-Chairs—Senator Meyer and State Representative Roy--and members of the Environment Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in support of Raised Bill 791 - *An Act Banning Bisphenol-A in Certain Children's Products*.

As you know, there have been hundreds of animal studies that link the chemical bisphenol A, also known as BPA, to serious health effects, including the impairment of brain functions.

The National Toxicology Program of the National Institutes of Health has recently expressed concerns over the potential effects on the brain, behavior and prostate gland in fetuses, infants and children exposed to BPA.

A recently-released Yale School of Medicine study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) reported that bisphenol-A (BPA), a building block for polycarbonate plastics found in common household items including baby bottles, causes the loss of connections between brain cells. This synaptic loss may cause memory/learning impairments and depression.

Csaba Leranth, M.D., professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences and in Neurobiology at Yale and the author of the study, stated that the study's findings are "more indicative than past research of how BPA may actually affect humans."

Study co-author Tibor Hajszan, M.D., associate research scientist in Yale Ob/Gyn, stated that the EPA should "consider lowering its 'safe daily limit' for human BPA consumption."

Many other respected medical researchers have urged the FDA to intervene with regulatory policies banning BPA in plastics and other containers, but the FDA has yet to act decisively on this matter.

World-renowned pediatricians and medical toxicologists like Dr. **Carl R. Baum** of Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital are "particularly concerned about the relatively high levels of BPA found in infants and young children, as they cannot metabolize BPA as effectively as adults."

According to Dr. Baum, baby formula can become contaminated with BPA attached to the lining of the formula containers and, subsequently, in baby bottles.

The use of BPA in food containers is significant and constitutes a serious health risk to our children. Some national surveys of human health have reported harmful levels of BPA detectable in nearly 93 percent of study participants ages 6 and up.

Lack of awareness of the harmful effects of this chemical used in baby bottles is a serious public health risk, and, generally-speaking, Connecticut consumers and parents have no reliable way of knowing whether a product contains BPA.

In the absence of stricter federal policy and regulation, the Connecticut General Assembly must act to safeguard our children's health and the health of consumers in general.

BPA is clearly a "hazardous substance," and products such as baby bottles and other containers made with such a substance that are marketed for use by children under the age of three should be banned.

I therefore urge your committee and the legislature to pass this much-needed legislation to protect the safety and health of our most vulnerable—infants and children.

Thank you for undertaking this important measure.

Respectfully submitted,

**Susan Bysiewicz**

Secretary of the State of Connecticut