

Testimony on Bill 257

Legislation Pertaining to Day Care Facilities

I am a former Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health. I support this legislation to protect Connecticut's youngest children from exposure to toxic pesticides.

Many pesticides are among the most toxic chemicals used where people live, work, and play. It is a fact that young children are the most vulnerable to the toxic effects of these chemicals. The effects of exposures have been linked with cancer, birth defects, reproductive effects, liver or kidney damage, neurotoxicity, and hormonal system disruption.

This statute is much more protective of young children at day care facilities than the present pesticide statutes

- It provides for a licensed applicator to apply pesticides
- The authority to use a pesticide in an emergency is clarified.
- It provides for prior notification of parents or guardians of a pesticide application by any means.
- It provides for an annual written statement to parents of the facility's pesticide policy and applications at the facility in the previous 12 months.
- It provides that records of what pesticide was applied (when, where, and why) be kept in the facility for 5 years
- It extends this legislation to all day care centers

As a former Commissioner of the Connecticut DPH, I can tell you that the enforcement of this legislation is not onerous. The DPH inspects day care facilities on a two-year cycle. They only have to look at the records that are now required of the facility to see if they are compliant with this legislation. If the facility is not in compliance, DPH tells them what they have to do and the facility replies in writing as to how they have complied with the requirements of the legislation.

Because of the current economic situation, it is likely that this bill will not pass if you do not add the following provision: **"The provisions of this section shall be enforced within existing resources"**.

It is incumbent on us to provide the same protection from these toxins to Connecticut's youngest children as is provided to their older brothers and sisters.

Respectfully,

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