



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE KIM FAWCETT**  
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-THIRD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 4048  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
CELL: (203) 258-2992  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8488  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267  
FAX: (860) 240-0206  
E-MAIL: Kim.Fawcett@cga.ct.gov

**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 2, 2010

Mr. Chairman, members of the Environment Committee thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

Patterns of illness in American children have changed dramatically in the past century. Asthma, learning disabilities, allergies, obesity and leukemia have become prevalent and most feared of childhood diseases. These diseases are striking our children with alarming frequency regardless of race, economic status or gender. For me my journey into questioning the implications of using and exposing children to known toxins that are linked to disease began when I became a mother of three small kids and I started to question what was in the products that I used on them or in the toys they played with.

Toxins in our homes, at schools, in the air we breathe, and in the products we use every day have been implicated as causes of some of these diseases. And these diseases are on the rise.

The problem of toxic chemicals in people, and especially in developing children, is too big for us to completely solve. But Connecticut can take steps to model what a federal solution could look like, and we can certainly make taking action on the most highly toxic chemicals our top priority.

While in-utero exposures have significant and life-long health consequences, children's development can be further impacted by toxic chemicals in everyday products they encounter after birth. I hear from parents in my district who are tired of wondering if the products that they buy for their children are safe. Right now, there is no one minding the

store. My constituents should not have to be toxicologists in order to go shopping. They should not have to wonder if toxic chemicals are hidden in everyday products.

This is why I hope that Connecticut builds on the work being done by Maine and Washington to prioritize chemicals of concern and move toward phasing them out, with children's products being the top priority but hopefully just the beginning of this effort. Thanks to the work of these other states, Connecticut does not have to start from scratch. Our agencies can work from lists already carefully developed by Maine and other states and gathered by the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse that we joined in 2008. House Bill 5130 is a modest proposal, but one that could have a considerable impact on the health of the children in our state