

**Written Testimony of Toby Cone of Darien, CT and the executive board of the Children's
Environmental Health Center at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York,
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010.**

Testimony in Support of:

House Bill 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut

House Bill 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and members of the Environment Committee,

**My name is Toby Cone and I am a Darien resident and on the board of the Children's
Environmental Health Center at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.**

I am in writing because I strongly support HB 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut and HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products.

- I am concerned about this issue of because we need state government to proactively consider phasing out chemicals of concern, at least in the products used by children.
- House Bill 5130 would solve the problem by creating a process for state agencies to work together on a list of the most toxic chemicals in children's products. These would then be phased out after being on the list for a few years.

Many studies have linked toxins to diseases such as cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's as well as asthma, infertility and learning disabilities. Young children and developing fetuses are especially vulnerable; exposure to even a small amount can affect a child for life. Connecticut has been a national leader by phasing out lead, mercury and BPA but we cannot continue to play toxic chemical "whac-a-mole" with our children's health. Please pass **HB 5130** to establish a comprehensive approach to phase out of chemicals of high concern from children's products. Parents should not have to wonder whether common household products, like bedding, toys or food can linings, are damaging their children's futures!

If prevention is, in fact, the best medicine, then we need to pay much closer attention to the role chemicals in the environment play in the rise of disease, related health care costs, and human suffering.

The European Union is in the process of phasing out hundreds of chemicals of high concern as part of their REACH legislation. Many countries are following the lead of the EU, including China, and U.S. manufacturers will have to find and use safer alternatives in order to stay competitive in the world market. A Chemical Innovations Institute, as established in **HB 5126**, would help Connecticut to lead in manufacturing products that families can trust. It is an economic development opportunity for green jobs growth and will assure that CT products can be sold in the international market place. This will help our state businesses and the CT economy as a whole, as well as protecting workers and consumers from exposure to toxins.

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for their leadership in this area.
Please make passing **HB5126** and **HB 5130** a priority this legislative session.

Thank you,
Toby Cone
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