

Written Testimony of Grace Hvasta-Petrarca, Certified Ayurvedic Practitioner, and Owner of Good for you Girls, LLC.

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010.

Testimony in support of: **BH 5126 AA** Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute and the University of Connecticut and **HB 5130 AAC** Child Safe Products.

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A mother of 4 girls, Certified Ayurvedic Practitioner, and Owner of Good for you Girls, the only 100% Natural and Organic skincare company for girls aged 9-15.

It has been my personal quest for the past 11 years, to always provide my family with products that are safe. You would consider us a "green" family. One that eats organic foods, uses natural cleaning products for our home, and uses only natural and organic health and beauty products.

It has been so encouraging to see the growth in the Natural Foods Industry over the past decade. Because more and more people are educating themselves about harmful chemicals, and how even trace amounts of harmful chemicals used in food, cosmetics, kitchen utensils, baby toys, carpeting, clothing, and many other products, over time, build up in the body, causing chronic disease, and cancers. The research is overwhelming, and I am incensed by companies that continue to knowingly create and manufacture products that are harmful to humans.

My training in Natural Medicine gives me specific insight into how these toxins are stored in the body, and I see first hand the damage to both body and mind, caused by the absorption of these toxins. I consider it my responsibility as well as my job, to educate my patients so that they may develop healthier habits and make safer choices.

Two years ago, I was looking for natural skincare for my oldest daughter, who was a typical American pre-teen; an accomplished classical ballerina, a basketball & softball player. Her body was starting to change, and she was interested in developing good skincare habits. Of course, she noticed how I took care of my skin, and wanted to do the same. I told her I would find something just for her, as my products were geared toward anti-aging. As I shopped for her, it was quite evident that there was a void in this demographic. Wonderful natural products existed for babies, and adults, but nothing for girls 9-15.

That is why Good for you Girls began. My business partner and I put our heads together and developed the only 100% Natural and Organic skincare for girls. We have developed a new category within the natural food industry and are proud to be in over 200 retail locations nationwide. It is our personal commitment to provide a safe alternative to this demographic. It is our hope that other manufacturers will be inspired to keep the safety and good health of their customers as the primary objective. We realize that this commitment requires creativity, sacrifice, and hard work, but the resulting well being of the consumers (in our case, children 9-15), is well worth the effort.

Therefore, it should be no surprise that I fully support passing legislation banning harmful chemicals in products marketed toward children, or anyone for that matter; as well as establishing green job growth, promoting safe workplaces, and reducing the use of toxic chemicals linked to chronic disease.