

Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee
March 1st, 2010 Testimony of Joyce Acebo~Raguskus,
174 Eastern Parkway, Milford, CT
Chair Diesel Clean-up, Environmental Concerns Coalition,
Coalition for A Safe & Healthy Connecticut

**In support of HB 5130 The Child Safe Products Act to protect children from
the chemicals of highest concern in toys and other products designed for their use.
In support of HB 5126 An Act Establishing A Chemical Innovations Institute.**

I'm sure most of us at some point have gotten lost in a toy department walking up and down the colorful isles to try to reach for the most enticing toy to bring joy to our little ones, and, I'm sure most CT consumers trust and assume that if a toy or child product has made it to the shelves, it has also made it through stringent objective testing and contains NO chemicals hazardous to the health of our children. To boot, there are no RED FLAGS waving through the rows and rows confirming even further this assumption. Unfortunately this thinking is faulty. Many such products are laced with chemical toxins.

Like Bisphenol-A, consuming cadmium differs from eating carrots. **Mercury, bromine, chlorine(PVC) and arsenic are common ingredients in children's products. Where is accountability and responsibility?**

We "kicked the bottle," the BPA bottle last session, the poisoning leaching fields, contaminating the bodies and brains of infants and children. Attny. General Blumenthal kicked them right off shelves in CT, and passed one of the strongest BPA bills in the nation and globally, thanks to your support. **This is the tip of the Toxic Chemical Iceberg, however!** We've secured some hatches, but, toxic chemicals continue to swim in the blood streams of our little ones. Toxic toys and products are waiting on shelves and placed in vulnerable hands and mouths to be swallowed up, altering hormones and causing distress as we speak until we take responsibility and say STOP!

Dr. Mark Mitchell, Pres. Of CT Coalition for Environmental Justice supports CT leadership to phase out toxic chemicals to protect public health, however, comprehensive state and federal reform is needed, along with Dr. Denise McBride, Dir., Milford Health Dept., and Dr. Baum, head of Toxicology, Yale Pediatrics.

The Child Safe Product Act, HB 5130 will help protect children from the chemicals of highest concern in toys and other products for their use. HB5126, establishing CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE is a home for national and global information to assist Business, agencies and non-profit organizations, to distinguish HIGH PRIORITY TOXINS FOR PHASING OUT, access toxic alternatives, produce clean/green isles of toys and children's products, and deliver HIGH STANDARDS OF REGULATIONS for our highest, our children. We need to walk the isles with Responsibility, Reassurance and Joy.

HB 5130 AND HB 5126 ARE THE BASIC INGREDIANTS FOR BUILDING HEALTHY MINDS AND BODIES.

Thank you for all that you do and this opportunity.

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