

Written Testimony of Mary Anne O’Gorman, Fairfield University School of Nursing, Before Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010, Testimony in Support of: HB 5130.

Senators, Representatives and other distinguished committee members, I want to thank you for the opportunity to address HB 5130.

I am writing to urge you to pass HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products. I am a Connecticut resident and a senior nursing major at Fairfield University. I am particularly interested in this Bill and the many benefits that would result from its passage not only because I am going into the healthcare profession but also because I plan to specialize in Pediatric nursing. Throughout my clinical rotations in pediatrics I have been struck by the vulnerability of the children in my care and have subsequently been motivated to advocate for the health and safety of these patients that, more often than not, cannot or do not have the ability or knowledge to do so for themselves. As such, I believe that it is imperative that HB 5130 be passed so that harmful chemicals will be phased out of children’s products.

One of the most memorable experiences I have had thus far in pediatric nursing was when my six year old patient told me that he wanted his teddy bear to have his cancer treatment that week rather than himself. I left the child’s room thinking that a six year old should not have to endure chemotherapy nor have the term “cancer” in his vocabulary. Research has demonstrated the risks associated with many chemicals routinely used in children’s products, chemicals demonstrated to could have carcinogenic and other adverse effects on the health and quality of life of our children. As a future pediatric nurse I am dedicating my life to protecting and caring for children that are ill. As a nurse I will be a voice for this population that cannot speak for themselves. Please support HB 5130 and to protect Connecticut’s children and prevent childhood exposure to toxic chemicals. It is of the utmost importance that each child is given every opportunity to live a full healthy life. Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne O’Gorman

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