

**TESTIMONY RE: RAISED BILL 5130
AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS
Committee on Environment
March 1, 2010**

TO: Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee
FROM: Tsampika Apostolidis, RN, MS; *Cardiac Program Manager*
52 Clubhouse Drive, Cromwell CT 06416

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 5130. I am Tsampika Apostolidis, RN, MS, a nurse with many years of experience in cardiology, home health nursing, and as clinical faculty for the University Of Connecticut School of Nursing. I speak in strong support of H.B. 5130, *The Child Safe Products Act*.

As a nurse and a citizen, I am increasingly concerned about exposure to toxic chemicals in our environment. More and more research establishes links between many of these chemicals and cancers. I teach nursing students on the Oncology Unit and also see many patients with cancer in my role as Cardiac Program Manager at the VNA. While I understand that no definitive cause and effect relationship between exposure to these chemicals and cancer can be conclusively proven, I am concerned about the following statistics:

- Childhood brain cancer rates are up 40% since 1973
- Acute lymphocytic leukemia rates up 62% since 1973
- One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, up from 1 in 10 in 1973.
- Testicular cancer rate rose 41% from 1973 to 1996.

In my practice, I see the tremendous improvements in cancer diagnostics and treatment but am increasingly worried that exposure to these chemicals in our every day environment may be contributing to some of these sobering statistics. As a nurse, we rely on research to guide our practice. The volume of independent, peer-reviewed research

linking many of these chemicals to cancers is startling. Newer evidence showing exposure to certain chemicals at critical phases of development shows that timing of exposure matters. In fact, a recent 2007 study of women with breast cancer showed that women exposed to DDT at ages younger than fourteen had an increased risk of breast cancer while those exposed later in life to this particular chemical had no risk.¹ Numerous studies in animals show that exposure to endocrine disruptors such as bisphenol-A in utero result in mammary tissue changes that are precursors to the development of breast cancer.²

On a personal note, my mother is a breast cancer survivor and my father died of lymphocytic leukemia. One of our dogs also died of leukemia and the other from liver cancer. We lived next to a golf course and frequently walked and played on the grass that was routinely treated with chemicals. I was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 33. I understand that while cause and effect relationships may not be proven in humans scientifically, there is enough evidence linking the harmful effects of many of these chemicals to cause us to take precautionary measures. H.B. 5130 begins to do just that. The research clearly shows that timing of exposure matters. H.B. 5130 will establish a mechanism to list the most toxic chemicals and ban them from products used by our most vulnerable citizens, our children. I urge your support of H.B. 5130.

Sincerely,

Tsampika Apostolidis, RN, MS

52 Clubhouse Drive, Cromwell CT 06416

¹ Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, (2010) "*The Health Case For Reforming The Toxic Substances Control Act*" p.7.

² See Vandenburg, LN; MV Maffini; PR Wadia, C Sonnenshein, BS Rubin, AM Soto, (2007) *Exposure to environmentally relevant doses of xenoestrogen bisphenol-A alters development of the fetal mouse mammary gland*. Endocrinology 148(1):116-27