

Written Testimony of Andrew May of 35 Owen ST. Hartford, CT. 06105,
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1st, 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 honorable members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Andrew May and I am a resident of Hartford.

I am 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 assume that a large part of your life as a Legislator this session is consumed by the budget and the economy. The establishment of a Chemical Innovations Institute represents an investment in Connecticut's economy and public health. The European Union is in the process of phasing out hundreds of chemicals of high concern as part of their REACH legislation. According to DECD figures, in 2008, France, Germany, and Great Britain represented respectively, the second, third, and fifth most valuable destinations for Connecticut products; meanwhile, also according to DECD, chemicals represent the second most valuable Connecticut export. It is not hard to see, therefore, that establishment of a Chemical Innovations Institute is vital to our economic health.

In his February 25th op-ed entitled, "Do Toxins Cause Autism?" *New York Times* columnist Nicholas D. Kristof quotes from Dr. Phillip J. Landrigan, professor of pediatrics at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and chairman of the school's department of preventive medicine. Dr. Landrigan writes, "The likelihood is 'high' that many chemicals 'have potential to cause injury to the developing brain and to produce neurodevelopmental disorders." For this public health reason, not ignoring moral implications, I urge you to pass HB5130 which would begin to phase out certain high-risk chemicals from children's products such as bedding, toys, or food can linings. Connecticut parents have enough to worry about!!!

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for past leadership in phasing out mercury, lead, and BPA.

Please make passing HB5126 and HB5130 a priority this legislative session

Sincerely,


Andrew May