

Written Testimony of Alison Barria, student of Fairfield University School of Nursing, before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010, Testimony in support of: HB 5126 and HB 5130

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill # 5126 and #5130. My name is Alison Barria, I am in my final semester of nursing school at Fairfield University. Being a nursing student and studying how our population's health has changed in the past few decades, I was really drawn to these two Bills and what they stand for. Future generations will become increasingly effected by the environment that we are creating for them. People are living longer but they aren't necessarily living healthy lives.

My cousin Adriana found out that she was pregnant with her first child about 9 years ago. She was so excited and did all of the things she needed to do in order to stay healthy throughout her pregnancy and avoid any complications. She gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Gabby. We all noticed that Gabby's second birthday was coming up and she was still not speaking the way a normal two year old would. Her speech was delayed as well as her motor skills. Being a very concerned parent, Adriana took Gabby to the doctor and they soon diagnosed her with autism.

Devastated from the news, Adriana could only blame herself and wondered about all the things she might have done to prevent this from occurring. Naturally parents tend to blame themselves, however, what if they did everything "right" and their child is still sick? Is it possible that the chemicals used in Gabby's toys and bottles were to blame? There has been an alarming increase in the diagnosis of Autism among other childhood developmental disorders, childhood cancers, and reproductive problems in the past decade, and it is possible that toxic chemicals are a cause.

There are numerous chemicals in children's products, and many of them have been shown to be related to disease and disability. I urge you to support this bill to identify these chemicals, remove them from our products and use safer alternatives.

As a member of the Environmental Committee, you are able to promote what is in the best interest of the population. I urge that House Bill #5130 be passed to protect our future.

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