

Written Testimony of Catherine Fitzgerald, Fairfield University School of Nursing,
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010,
Testimony in Support of:

HB 5130 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Bill 5130.

I am a student nurse at Fairfield University and I hope to work in a pediatric hospital when I graduate in May. As a Bachelor of Science prepared nurse, my education has focused not only on bedside skills, but also on research, critical thinking, and incorporating evidence-based findings into practice. In recent years, there have been hundreds of research studies whose evidence strongly suggests a link between chemical exposure and serious health problems including birth defects, cancer, and infertility. The logical way to incorporate these findings into practice is to eliminate this cause of health problems. H.B. 5130 is a step in the right direction.

Fairfield University has also trained me to be a strong advocate for my patients. Children can be exposed to many toxic chemicals through contact with everyday items and toys. Because their body systems are so small and still developing, even small amounts of exposure can be harmful. In addition, many of these chemicals can be passed through the placenta or breast milk of a pregnant or nursing woman. My patients need your help; I urge you to protect our children by supporting Bill 5130.

Thank you,
Catherine Fitzgerald,
Fairfield University School of Nursing