

**Testimony of Carolyn Stearns, resident of Mansfield**

**March 2, 2010**

**Select Committee on Children**

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 5314, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products and Banning Cadmium in Children's Products**

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Urban, and honorable members of the Select Committee on Children,

My name is Carolyn Stearns, and I am a resident of Mansfield. I am writing in support of HB 5314, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products and Banning Cadmium in Children's Products.

My daughter walked in the door, her face was dark and foreboding and then she blurted...." Mom I have cancer!" It is my hope that one day in Connecticut there will be a time when Mothers never have to live that moment, they will never have to see that look on the face of a family member. I wish for mothers to never have to sit through long grueling chemo treatments for daughters or sons.

It was October 2008 when my daughter, age 28 came home with the frightening news. It was not long after that tests revealed she was harboring Stage 4 Hodgkins Lymphoma Cancer, as the stage is determined, there were many tumors above and below the diaphragm. Hodgkins is common in young people, the cancer is linked with chemicals.

After 12 rounds of chemotherapy I am ecstatic to say that my daughter is cancer free at this time. It has impacted all our lives, loss of work time, extreme medical bills, compromised her future health, a one, five, 10 year plan for control and watching, followed by a lifetime plan.

Childhood and youth should be protected from the onslaught of everyday chemicals. Children don't read labels, children don't volunteer to absorb these substances. Our job as adults, parents, leaders and Government is to protect the innocent. Let us work to give them back the freedom of knowing their environment at home, school and in the community is safe. If we act today, if we dare to be so bold as to enact protective legislation then the day will come when Mothers won't hear - Mom, I have cancer!

Please make passing HB5314 a priority this legislative session.

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