

**Written Testimony of Beka Apostolidis, RN, MS of Cromwell, CT,  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee,  
February 23, 2011.**

Testimony in Support of:  
**Senate Bill 210, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF BISPHENOL-A IN  
THERMAL RECEIPT PAPER AND INCREASING THE DUTIES OF THE  
CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE**

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and honorable members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Beka Apostolidis. I am a resident of Cromwell CT. I am in writing because I strongly support SB 210 An Act Prohibiting the Use of Bisphenol-A In Thermal Receipt Paper And Increasing the Duties Of The Chemical Innovations Institute.

I am very concerned about toxic chemicals in products we use every day, like receipts! In particular, I am very concerned about children's exposure to these chemicals. I've been a nurse for 15 years and am also clinical faculty at UCONN where I teach nursing students on the Oncology unit at Hartford Hospital. I am also a breast cancer survivor. Two years ago, at age 35, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. After going through two surgeries, radiation and oral tamoxifen, I am happy to say that my cancer is gone. I also lost my father to leukemia in 2004. My mother is a breast cancer survivor and we lost our 2 family dogs to cancer.

As a nurse and cancer survivor, I know that the cause of cancer and many serious diseases is still unclear. In my practice and as faculty, I see patients both young and old, battling serious cancers. But I do know that more and more scientific research shows that exposure to toxic chemicals is linked with these diseases. The 2010 President's Cancer Panel Report states 41% of Americans will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives and determined that the true burden of environmentally induced cancer has been grossly underestimated.<sup>1</sup>

While we can not do scientific human studies to prove causal relationships between exposure to toxic chemicals and cancer, there is an enormous amount of evidence that links exposure—even prenatally—to many diseases. In nursing, we are taught to use the precautionary principle when there is risk of harm. I applaud CT lawmakers for their leadership on this issue but we must do more. With over 82,000 chemicals in commerce and new evidence of things like BPA on cash and ATM receipts, we must adopt laws that apply the precautionary principle. We need to focus on prevention just as much as treatment. CT is recognized as a national leader thanks to the lawmakers in this room. I hope that we can continue to keep up the fight!

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<sup>1</sup> President's Cancer Panel Report Annual Report 2008-2009, "Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk-What We Can Do Now." (April 2010) (found in executive summary, letter to the President)

Thanks to the members of this committee, Connecticut has been a national leader in passing strong legislation to protect the health of children and the environment by phasing out lead, mercury and BPA but we cannot continue to ban one chemical at a time. SB 210 is another step in the right direction. Connecticut should again take the lead nationally to ban BPA from thermal paper receipts once a safer alternative is identified! Parents should not have to wonder whether common household products, like bedding, toys or food can linings, are damaging their children's futures! I urge you to pass SB 210.

Sincerely,

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