

**Testimony of John Murphy of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group
Before the Environment Committee 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***

February 23, 2011

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

My name is John Murphy and I am here representing the 30,000 member families of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). CCAG is proud to be a lead partner with the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut. CCAG strongly supports SB 210 *An Act Prohibiting the Use of Bisphenol-A In Thermal Receipt Paper And Increasing the Duties Of The Chemical Innovations Institute*.

CCAG is concerned about the health of Connecticut citizens and supports common-sense legislation that reduces exposure to harmful chemicals. We are aware of the growing body of research that links exposure to toxic chemicals in many consumer products with serious diseases.

Of grave concern is the fact that recent research shows that bisphenol-A, a known endocrine disruptor, is a component of many thermal paper receipts found in ATM machines, gas pumps and cash registers. In this context, BPA is unbound and readily transmits to our hands and through the skin and we in turn can transmit it to others. We are especially concerned about store clerks in check out lines that handle these receipt papers for hours on end, each day.

A growing body of scientific research links BPA exposure to breast and prostate cancers, reproductive disorders, obesity and insulin resistance, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Yet, we now learn that due to the legal loopholes in the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), pregnant mothers can unknowingly transmit this chemical to their developing fetus just by doing the weekly grocery shopping.

This is particularly alarming when the incidence of childhood brain cancers and leukemia, breast cancers and other serious disorders linked to BPA are on the rise. With efforts to reform TSCA stalled, states like Connecticut are taking the lead to pass laws that protect citizens from these harmful chemicals as much as possible. This spring, thirty states introduced efforts to pass more comprehensive chemical policy

reforms. Connecticut is recognized for its leadership in passing the strongest ban on BPA in the country. In fact, several states right now are introducing legislation similar to what Connecticut passed in 2009. We must continue to lead the way and drive federal reform by banning BPA in thermal paper receipts once a safer alternative is identified. SB 210 does just that.

The presence of BPA in receipts is just one more example of why the U.S. Congress needs to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act. Until that happens, CCAG applauds the leadership of this committee in working to pass state laws that create a more sustainable framework for protecting Connecticut's citizens. We support the goals of SB 210 and urge members of this committee to vote in favor of this bill. Thank you.