

**Written Testimony of Lisa Cull, Central Connecticut Oncology Nurses Society,  
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 Lisa Cull and I am the immediate past president of the Central Connecticut Oncology Nurses Society. Our organization recently signed on as a member organization with the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut. I've been a nurse for 32 years, an oncology certified nurse for more than 20 years and currently work at the Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center as the Clinical Manager.

As a professional oncology nursing organization, we are increasingly concerned about the rising incidence of many cancers, and the links to exposure to toxic chemicals. We'd like to thank the leadership of this committee for their extraordinary accomplishments in banning some of the most harmful chemicals and most notably, passing the strongest ban on bisphenol-A in the country!

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.

Eliminating thermal receipt paper that contains bisphenol-A(BPA) is just plain common sense. Numerous studies link BPA to breast and prostate cancers, reproductive disorders, insulin resistance, obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. As a nurse, we apply the precautionary principle in our practice which states that when there is evidence of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken, even when there is a lack of conclusive scientific proof. Here, the evidence is strong and Connecticut should continue to pave the way in applying the precautionary principle and pass SB 210.

I also support a more sustainable framework for identifying chemicals of concern and phasing them out of products—particularly children's products. As you may be aware, *The President's Cancer Panel Report*, published in May 2010, confirmed that exposure to toxic chemicals is a serious risk factor for cancer and has been grossly underestimated. We have made significant improvements in cancer treatment, however we are challenged to identify the chemicals that cause cancer which, often end life much sooner than it should be. It's imperative that we continue to focus on awareness and prevention as well.

As an oncology nurse, I am well aware of the advances in cancer treatment. More and more, we are able to cure cancers and prolong people's lives with new targeted therapies, adding months to years for cancer patients. Yet the emotional, physical and financial toll of a cancer diagnosis both for the patient and their family is staggering. I see this every day. And, despite advances in treatment, we continue to see more young children with very serious cancers. I'd like to share a few sobering statistics:

- Recent statistics indicate that cancer is the second most common cause of death for Americans under 20.
- The National Cancer Institute now estimates that 44% of men and 38% of women will be diagnosed with some form of cancer in their lifetime.
- Breast cancer rates in the U.S. increased by more than 40% between 1973 and 1998.
- The incidence of childhood cancer increased more than 20% between 1975 and 1990.
- Of childhood cancers, the incidence of leukemia and brain cancers have risen sharply. The question is why and what can we do about it?

In addition, the NIH just released a report documenting that the direct costs of cancer will be \$158 billion by 2020.

The President's Cancer Panel Report and a significant amount of research links exposure to toxic chemicals with risk factors for many cancers. Bisphenol – A or (BPA) has been strongly linked to breast cancer and other cancers as well. The problem is that scientific studies examine the effects of one chemical at a time. We are all exposed to numerous chemicals every day—and the cumulative effect of this is unknown. It is alarming that we've recently learned that even something like our cash and ATM and cashier receipts expose us to BPA on a daily basis.

As an oncology nurse, I understand that we may not be able to prove the direct cause of cancer. However, there is enough evidence indicating that we should reduce our exposure to these chemicals whenever possible. I urge your support of SB 210.

Sincerely,

Lisa Cull, RN, MSN  
Full address