



From the Children's Environmental Health Center at The Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Statement in support of Senate Bill 210, An Act Banning Bisphenol-A from Thermal Receipt Paper and Increasing the Duties of the Chemical Innovations Institute

February 22, 2011.

To Whom It May Concern:

As scientists and physicians at the Children's Environmental Health Center at The Mount Sinai School of Medicine, a Collaborating Centre in Children's Environmental Health of the World Health Organization, we strongly support Senate Bill 210, An Act Banning Bisphenol-A from Thermal Receipt Paper and Increasing the Duties of the Chemical Innovations Institute. This legislation has the potential to reduce exposure to this toxic chemical, by eliminating a widespread source of BPA exposure, cash receipts made of thermal paper.

BPA is a toxic chemical that affects the endocrine system, and has been associated with obesity, diabetes and cancer, among other adverse health outcomes. Reducing exposure to BPA is an important public health move, and eliminating it from thermal receipt paper can have a large impact.

Despite making up a relatively tiny percentage of BPA use and market share, BPA in cash receipts may have a large potential public health impact. Recent studies have confirmed the substantial concentrations of BPA found on thermal receipt paper, as well as the potential for the toxic chemical to transfer from the paper to skin, where it can be absorbed into the body. Particularly for workers exposed regularly to cash receipts, such as cashiers, the possibility of a harmful chronic exposure looms large. Retail workers make up a large percentage of American jobs, and recent research has found that they are indeed exposed to higher levels of BPA than other Americans.

We applaud efforts to find alternatives to BPA in thermal paper, such as the EPA's BPA Alternatives in Thermal Paper Partnership, which seeks to replace this toxic chemical and find

safer alternatives for American consumers and workers. Senate Bill 210 takes an even stronger approach by eliminating BPA from thermal paper entirely, thus protecting the health of the public and especially of fetuses and children, who are most vulnerable to exposures to toxic chemicals. As leaders in public health and Preventive Medicine, we strongly support this legislation.