



**Written Testimony of Anne Hulick, Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut,
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 Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD and I am the Coordinator of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut (CSHC). I am also a nurse with many years of experience in environmental health. CSHC is a large coalition comprised of over fifty member organizations of health professionals, environmental justice advocates, labor groups, public health professionals, environmental experts, faith based groups, scientists and many individuals across Connecticut that are concerned about the growing body of research linking exposure to toxic chemicals with the rise in serious diseases.

I write in strong support of SB 210 An Act Prohibiting the Use of Bisphenol-A In Thermal Receipt Paper And Increasing the Duties Of The Chemical Innovations Institute. The Coalition would like to thank the members of this committee for their commitment and leadership in passing landmark legislation banning toxic chemicals from children's products and creating the Chemicals Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut. Connecticut is recognized nationally for these efforts, particularly for passing the strongest ban on bisphenol-A (BPA) in the country!

SB 210 is another step in the right direction. Recent research documenting the presence of BPA, a known endocrine disruptor, in thermal paper receipts is shocking. In thermal paper, BPA is unbound and readily transmits to hands. The recent study done by the Washington Toxics Coalition, showed that large quantities of BPA, up to 2.5 mcg, transferred to a person's hands after only ten seconds of holding the receipt. The chemical then readily transfers through skin or can be transmitted to others or other items, like our money. Handling thermal paper receipts means our cumulative exposure to BPA is much higher than previously believed.

We've all heard the arguments that BPA is safe in products and the exposure is too low to cause harm. That is not what the science is telling us. Over 200 independent scientific studies document that very low doses is linked to a staggering number of health problems including breast and prostate cancer, obesity, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder,

altered development of the brain and immune systems, lowered sperm count and early puberty. Exposure to BPA is particularly harmful during critical phases of development. We know that the placenta is not a barrier to a developing fetus. Recent analysis of umbilical cord blood from babies born in the U.S. showed the presence of 287 toxic chemicals including carcinogens, pesticides, neurotoxins and other industrial chemicals. Our babies are being born polluted! Evidence now suggests that it is the timing of exposure rather than the amount of exposure and exposure during fetal development poses a significant risk.

There is growing consensus that exposure to toxic chemicals, like BPA, is associated with the rise in incidence of many serious diseases. For example, the incidence of childhood cancer, specifically leukemia and brain cancer increased by more than 20% between 1975 and 1990, 1 out of 2 men, and 1 out of 3 women will be diagnosed with invasive cancer, and autism has seen a ten-fold increase in just over fifteen years. The health care costs, and costs to businesses, as a direct result is unsustainable. In January, the NIH reported that expenditures for direct cancer care alone would reach at least \$158 billion dollars by the year 2020!

The European Union is in the process of phasing out hundreds of chemicals of high concern as part of their REACH legislation. Many countries are following the lead of the EU, including China, and U.S. manufacturers will have to find and use safer alternatives in order to stay competitive in the world market. While reforms to the Toxic Substances Control Act are stalled, states are increasingly working to pass legislation that protects citizens from the most harmful chemicals. Banning BPA from thermal paper receipts as soon as a safer alternative is identified is one more significant way to protect public health.

The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut also supports Connecticut's efforts to create a more sustainable framework for identifying chemicals of high concern and phasing them out of products. The Chemical Innovations Institute, once funded, will be a tremendous resource to state businesses and agencies to assist with shifting to safer alternatives. We urge support of SB 210 and hope that further work can be done to engage key stakeholders in determining the best process for this complex task. SB 210 continues the work of protecting Connecticut's citizens from BPA and assures that Connecticut remains a national leader in the goal of chemical policy reform.

We urge your support of SB 210.

Sincerely,

Anne Hulick

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