

**Written Testimony of Chris Corcoran of West Hartford 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 Chris Corcoran and I am a resident of West Hartford. 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 which is what prompted me to leave the private sector four years ago to take a job working on environmental issues, specifically protecting children from exposure to toxic chemicals. In 2009 I worked with the Coalition for a Safe & Healthy CT, members of this committee and the General Assembly to pass HB6572 that banned BPA in food containers and children's products. I am very proud of this accomplishment and certainly children are safer because of this legislation and yet BPA is still a major concern and the recent study on BPA content in register receipts and medical paper is quite troubling.

According to the study released by Safer Chemicals Healthy Families and the Washington Toxics Coalition, over fifty years ago paper manufacturers began using BPA to produce thermal paper, a special kind of paper used for everything from cash register receipts to lottery tickets and medical papers. I am alarmed to learn that BPA, a known endocrine disruptor, is used in many thermal paper receipts! BPA in thermal receipts is unbound and easily transmits to hands and into our skin. BPA is linked to many serious diseases including breast and prostate cancers, reproductive disorders, obesity and insulin resistance, diabetes and cardiovascular disease and yet paper manufacturers look the other way and use it in a product we all come in contact with every day. We need to take all possible steps to assure that we are limiting our exposure to BPA, particularly in something like receipts that we often touch every single day.

When Connecticut passed HB6572 it passed the strongest bill in the country and made a statement that the Connecticut General Assembly is willing to put the safety of its residents before the profit of businesses. **There are safer alternatives to BPA** and once again the Connecticut General Assembly needs to lead the way and ban BPA in thermal receipt paper. The first step is getting the approval of SB 210 this committee and I strongly urge all of the members of this committee to pass this bill unanimously.

Sincerely,

Chris Corcoran
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