

**Written Testimony of Judy Sparer, Certified Industrial Hygienist at the Yale Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program, New Haven, CT before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee  
February 23, 2011.**

**Testimony in 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.**

**My name is Judy Sparer, and I work in New Haven at the Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program at Yale University Medical School in New Haven.**

I am writing in 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. I am taking the trouble to write this because I feel strongly about both aspects of this bill.

Where I work the doctors see patients who are sick from exposures at work or in the environment. They have developed illnesses because of exposures to lead, or mercury or solvents or isocyanates or asbestos at work or at home or chemicals that have gotten into their well water, or any of a host of other environmental contaminants, some of them "natural" like asbestos or lead, though concentrated by human efforts, some of them that would never had existed had humans being not developed them. My job, as the industrial hygienist, is, if the exposure is continuing, to go to that person's workplace or the site of the exposure, assess the risk of that exposure and help them reduce or eliminate the exposures. Often, ending the exposure can help the person. Sometimes the damage is already done, and reducing or eliminated that exposure helps others how would have been exposed otherwise and prevents them from developing the illness.

You have heard hours of testimony about the hazards of BPA and I won't repeat that here. BPA is associated with many illnesses and disorders. Other responsible bodies in Canada and in Europe have examined the evidence and taken steps toward eliminating exposures at least for children. Many "useful" chemicals like BPA, the compounds used to make our pans non-stick, flame retardants, are being found in pristine waterways, and in the blood of Connecticut residents, and our just born children. As a person who has spent most of my working life trying to reduce exposures to things that we have known are harmful for decades if not millennia, I urge you to take action before any more people are harmed by this chemical. BPA can be replaced, it is being replaced. This bill can speed that process and make it more effective. Please act now.

This leads me directly to why I support the second part of this bill, the part about getting serious about a Chemical Innovations Institute. It just makes good sense to provide some assistance to those who want to eliminate harmful chemicals in their products, chemicals which their workers also handle, but need some help in figuring out how to do that. This is a wonderful opportunity to get in early on the kind of work our state should be supporting to not only help the

environment but to keep our educated workforce in Connecticut doing needed, cutting edge work.

So please, give your enthusiastic support to SB 210. It is a good beginning.

Sincerely,

Judy Sparer  
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