



**Written Testimony of Anne Hulick, Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut,
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Environment,
March 7, 2012.**

Testimony in Support of:

**HB 5116, AN ACT REQUIRING THE LABELING OF FOOD PACKAGING THAT
CONTAINS BISPHENOL-A**

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and honorable members of the Environment,

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. Toxic chemical exposure during critical windows of fetal development and to young infants and children is of particular concern.

The Coalition strongly supports HB 5116. 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.

Studies by the Silent Spring Institute demonstrated that food packaging is the major source of BPA exposure. BPA leaches out of the food packaging container into the food or beverage. This is not dependent on the type of food or how long the item has been on the store shelf. While eating fresh food is the easiest way to reduce exposure to BPA from food packaging, many people rely on canned and packaged foods to feed their families. We believe that consumers have a right to know what is in their food! HB

5116 is a step in the right direction. It will provide valuable information to consumers and may drive much needed market changes to safer alternatives for food packaging, like tetra-packs. Connecticut is clearly recognized as a national leader in reducing exposure to the endocrine-disruptor-BPA thanks to members of this committee. Let's continue this leadership.

Sincerely,

Anne Hulick
Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut