

Testimony of Janet Heller, Manchester, CT
Before the Environment Committee
Public Hearing March 7, 2012
Re: Testimony in support of HB 5116, An Act Requiring
Labeling of Food Packaging that Contains Bisphenol-A

Senator Roy and members of the Environment Committee. I wish to testify in support of HB 5116, An act requiring labeling of Food Packaging that contains Bisphenol-A. (BPA) Ever since I participated in a course last fall with fellow members of My Unitarian Universalist Congregation I have been deeply concerned about the amount of BPA in our food packaging. I became aware that BPA is in the lining of many food packages and that it has been leaching into food products and beverages made with certain plastics and used in the epoxy liner of many canned foods. While we took the course, a study came out indicating a tremendous amount of BPA was found in the urine of people eating one serving of canned soup for a week. Another study emphasized how much BPA could enter into a person's body from eating a typical Thanksgiving dinner.

Now I carefully select the canned foods I eat and try to use fresh and whole foods as much as possible, but so few people are aware of the dangers. People don't know that BPA is linked to many diseases that are on the rise. We all know and love people who have been afflicted with cancer and we know the rates keep rising. As a special education teacher I saw the rise in children with behavioral disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder as well as obesity and diabetes. Early puberty affected many children. Because BPA is an endocrine-disruptor and affects our natural hormones it is linked to reproductive disorders and breast and prostate cancers.

For the sake of our children and for ourselves we need to get this out of our food. The first step is to require labeling of food packaging containing BPA. Please support HB 5116 and help make us all safer and healthier!

Thank you,
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