

Walter, Judith

From: Blancato, Allison
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 3:49 PM
To: Walter, Judith
Subject: FW: Concerning opposition to Bill 5155 AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.
Attachments: HB 5155-Pesticide modification.doc

From: ahulick@cleanwater.org
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 3:49 PM
To: Blancato, Allison
Subject: Concerning opposition to Bill 5155 AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.

Dear Ms. Blancato,

Please accept the attached testimony in opposition of HB 5155 for tomorrow's public hearing.

Sincerely,
Anne

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**Written Testimony of Anne Hulick, Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut,
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Planning and Development Committee,
February 22, 2012.**

Testimony in Opposition of:

**House Bill 5155, AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATION
ON SCHOOL GROUNDS**

Dear Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile and honorable members of the Planning and Development 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.

CSHC strongly opposes HB 5155 An Act Modifying the Ban On Pesticide Application On School Grounds. In 2005, Connecticut made great progress in reducing children's involuntary exposure to harmful pesticides with passage of PA 05-252.

There is no good reason to reverse course. Children are particularly vulnerable to chemicals in their environments, such as pesticides. A growing child does not possess the ability to metabolize and eliminate toxins like an adult. Playing on the ground and hand-mouth behavior also contribute to higher exposures of pesticides. In the last thirty years, scientists have learned that the developing brain is much more susceptible to toxic chemicals. Brain development begins in utero and continues through adolescence. There is growing consensus that exposure to toxic chemicals during critical windows of development is strongly linked with diseases later on in life.¹

Some of the most commonly used pesticides contain chemicals that are carcinogens, neurotoxins, reproductive toxicants, mutagens and cause birth defects.² The rising incidence of serious diseases associated with environmental toxins is sufficient justification for restricting exposure to these harmful chemicals whenever we can. Consider the following statistics. Cancer is now the second leading cause of death in children under the age of twenty. The incidence of leukemia, brain and other childhood

¹ Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, "The Health Case for Reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act" January 2010.

² Environment and Human Health, Inc. "Risks from Lawn Care Pesticides" 2003.

cancers has risen 20% since 1975.³ Exposure to neurotoxins, like those commonly found in some pesticides, is linked with a ten-fold rise in autism in just over a fifteen year period.⁴ Reproductive disorders affect 40% more women in the U.S. in 2002 than in 1982.⁵ Rolling back the restrictions enacted by PA 05-252 will allow young children to be needlessly and involuntarily exposed to pesticides. This makes no sense particularly when there are safe, effective and affordable alternatives.

CSHC urges you to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Anne Hulick

³ Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, p. 3.

⁴ Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, p. 8.

⁵ Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, p. 12.