

Environment and Human Health, Inc.
1191 Ridge Road
North Haven, Connecticut 06473

Testimony of
Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.

Bill 5155

AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.

Senator Steve Cassano, Representative Linda Gentile, and Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

My name is Nancy Alderman. I am President of Environment and Human Health, Inc., a non-profit organization comprised of ten members who are physicians and public health professionals in North Haven, CT.

Environment and Human Health, Inc. is opposed to Bill 5155

Why should this Bill be defeated?

This Bill is designed to undo the Connecticut State Statute that bans the use of pesticides on school grounds grades K-8.

The state of Connecticut worked for years to protect our smallest school children from many different toxins, including pesticides. Pesticides are one of those toxins that have been well documented as having the ability to cause harm to health – especially for small children.

Pesticides are designed to kill living things – whether those things are unwanted plants or unwanted insects.

Children are also living things - and that is why the state has said in the past that it will protect our smallest children from pesticide exposures while they are in our schools.

This was well thought out and well explored law by all parties. The state should not roll this law back because industry and SOME grounds keepers would like to use pesticides again under the guise of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

IPM allows for pesticide uses – and therefore when IPM has been mandated in other states it has proven to be unenforceable -- because it allows pesticides – and once pesticides are allowed one cannot tell how much or how many times they are used.

IPM has not proven to be a workable method when mandated for schools --- and has proven to be in almost all cases - pesticide use as usual.

We hope you will uphold Connecticut' laws to keep pesticides off the grounds of the schools where our smallest children play – grades K-8 – and vote down this Bill.

Thank you for your attention,

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
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