



# Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice

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March 7, 2012

Written Testimony of Dan Fischer of the Fairfield County Environmental Justice Network  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Public Health Committee

Testimony in Support of **SB 274** An Act Concerning Chemicals of High Concern to Children

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Dan Fischer. I am a community organizer and intern with the *Fairfield County Environmental Justice Network (FCEJN)*, a Bridgeport-based advocacy organization affiliated with the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice (*CCEJ*). I am from Fairfield and am currently living in Middletown. I am here to testify in support of SB 274 An Act Concerning Chemicals of High Concern to Children.

Getting toxic chemicals away from children is a matter of justice, since toxic chemicals disproportionately affect environmental justice communities. For instance, the consumer products addressed by this bill are disposed to landfills and incinerators which are disproportionately located in low-income communities and communities of color, leading to increased asthma, cancer and other health problems.

The extent to which toxic chemicals are poisoning young children is particularly outrageous. According to the book *Poisoned for Profit: How Toxins are Making Our Children Chronically Ill*, nearly 1 out of 3 children in the U.S. suffers from a chronic disease. Scientists say toxins are causing cancer, birth defects, developmental disorders, learning disabilities. Cancer is now the second leading cause of death for people under twenty-years-old in the U.S.

In conclusion, getting toxic chemicals away from children and other human beings is a matter of justice. My organization believes this bill is a positive step toward this goal.

Very truly yours,

Dan Fischer  
Intern Community Organizer  
Fairfield County Environmental Justice Network