

**Written Testimony of Dr. Hans Laufer
of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of Connecticut
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Public Health,
March 7, 2012**

Testimony in Support of:
**SB 274 AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICALS OF
HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN**

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

I am writing in support of SB 274 AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN. I am the Director of the Laboratory of Invertebrate Reproduction and Development at the University of Connecticut Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology. Our research for over 10 years indicates that our marine environment is heavily contaminated with alkylphenols, including bisphenol A. These compounds are hormonally active endocrine disruptors affecting marine organisms as well as humans who consume these species.

As a result of my research, I am very concerned about the use of plastics in bottles. In Europe, glass bottles are being used instead of plastic, although it may be more expensive it is much healthier. I would also recommend removing bisphenol A from can liners since this material gets into the contents of the can and is ingested in substantial amounts. I feel certain that healthier substitutes can be found to accomplish the same results.

Detrimental breakdown products come from many types of plastics, detergents and other industrial products. A concerted effort to reduce the use of such products must be undertaken if we want to stay healthy.

SB 274 is an excellent step towards regulation of chemicals of high concern in products that impact the most vulnerable in our population, the children. I urge support of this bill.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to the Committee.

Sincerely,

Hans Laufer

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