

**Written Testimony of John Murphy
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Select 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 Urban and honorable members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is John Murphy. I am employed by Connecticut Citizens Action Group (CCAG). CCAG is proud to be a lead partner with the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut. CCAG supports SB 274.

CCAG is concerned about the health of Connecticut citizens and supports common-sense legislation that reduces exposure to harmful chemicals. We are aware of the growing body of research that links exposure to toxic chemicals in many consumer products with serious diseases. The presence of harmful chemicals in children's products is particularly egregious, exposing manufacturers, parents and children.

CCAG believes that it is time to take precautionary measures to reduce exposure to chemicals. There is a growing body of research that strongly links our cumulative exposure to chemicals in our products and in our homes with the rising incidence of many serious diseases in this country, including childhood brain cancer and leukemia, adult cancers of the breast, prostate, kidney, reproductive disorders, autism and other learning and behavioral disorders and asthma.

SB 274 takes sense for the following reasons:

- 1) with federal reform efforts not likely to pass anytime soon, SB 274 takes meaningful steps forward to identify chemicals of high concern and establishes a sustainable process to reduce exposure or give citizens much needed information.
- 2) it sets up a realistic, collaborative system with our state agency experts and a "green ribbon science panel" of state experts to review research and other state lists as well as that of international bodies so we don't have to re-create the wheel.
- 3) the "green ribbon science panel" will help the agency staff by providing additional guidance and support. This is the same model that was put into place in California.
- 4) this bill continues CT's leadership in protecting citizens, particularly the most vulnerable, from toxic chemicals. CT is recognized as a national leader for its policies on

BPA, cadmium etc. ME has a similar law already in place. CT would be a leader in setting up this state model.

5) The requirements on the agency are not overly burdensome. ME passed their bill with no fiscal note. By establishing a "green ribbon science panel" as we've proposed, we hope to establish a process for doing this critically important work without adding additional costs

6) Taking meaningful steps to reduce exposure to toxic chemicals will ultimately reduce health care costs in CT.

7) It creates regulatory certainty. Manufacturers are increasingly aware that states want to take action. By being proactive, CT businesses will have information that on chemicals that is important to consumers. Parents etc don't want harmful chemicals in children's products!!! This proposal helps them to know what is important to consumers based on the evolving scientific evidence.

CCAG strongly supports SB 274 and urges you to work to pass this during the 2012 session.

Sincerely,

John Murphy