

*Testimony of  
Joseph Grabinski, Chief EH&S Steward  
of the Teamsters Local Union 1150  
Before the Public Health Committee  
in support of HB 274  
An act concerning chemicals of high concern in children*

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and honorable members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Joe Grabinski and I am the Chief EH&S Steward of the Teamsters Local Union 1150. I am testifying in support of SB 274, an act concerning chemicals of high concern to children.

We support the language of SB 274 because we believe that it is a realistic and collaborative system among experts within the state agencies and the panel of experts who will begin the process of identifying chemicals of high concern and subsequently establishing a process to reduce exposure or educate consumers about the potential exposures.

If toxic chemical exposure can be directly attributed to increasing numbers of cancers, asthma, behavior disorders, and other chronic disease, then decreased exposure to toxins, could subsequently lead to declining disease rates, and ultimately to health care cost savings. We recognize that it is unlikely that the federal reform process of the Toxic Substances Control Act will yield results, so it is imperative to begin the process of determining which new and existing chemicals are safe and do not endanger public health or the environment at the state level.

As workers who are exposed to numerous and dangerous chemicals on a daily basis, it is refreshing to know that there is potential for a systematic yet multi-faceted approach that will have little to no fiscal impact on this state even as it focuses on the implementation of all aspects of this law. SB 274 is a large step in the right direction and we urge you to support it.

Thank you,  
Joseph Grabinski  
Chief EH&S Steward, Teamsters Local Union 1150  
6900 Main Street  
Stratford, CT 06497  
(203) 386-5241