



**Administrative and Residual Employees Union  
Local 4200, AFT CT, AFT, AFL-CIO**

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*Professionals Working So State Government Works*

Testimony of  
Laila A. Mandour, President  
of the Administrative and Residual Employees Union  
Before the Public Health Committee  
in support of SB 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 Laila Mandour and I am the President of the Administrative and Residual Employees Union. I am testifying in support of SB 274, an act concerning chemicals of high concern to children.

I support SB 274 because it begins a process in Connecticut for collaboration among numerous experts about identifying chemicals of high concern which is the first step to reducing exposure to them.

Since the passage of the Federal Toxic Substances Control Act in the 1970's only a small number of chemicals have been identified and regulated as toxins, yet by 2007 the International Agency for Research on Cancer had identified 415 known or suspected carcinogens. Although research will never be able to unravel the complicated tangle of all the causes of cancer, it has demonstrated thru the years that reducing exposure to certain chemicals reduces the rate of certain cancers. Perhaps one of the most common examples is the decreasing rate of lung cancer in men from the reduction in smoking. Another example that is less widely known is the decline in bladder cancer among workers whose exposure to aromatic amines was eliminated.

As President of A&R, I am very concerned with the health and welfare of its members and I know that workers are often disproportionately exposed to those chemicals that ultimately end up in the products used by all of us as consumers, and by our children. I believe that SB 274 is ultimately a step in the right direction because it will focus on those of us who are most likely to be affected by toxic chemicals. Although I do believe that it is a large step in the right direction, I hope that ultimately it will lead to a path of responsible research and development for all those chemicals impacting us in our homes and our work environments.

Sincerely,  
Laila A. Mandour, President  
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