

**Written Testimony of Sheri Gillette of Wethersfield, CT  
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 Public Health Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in support of SB 274, AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN.

My name is Sheri Gillette. I am a resident of Wethersfield, CT, a mother and a small business owner. I own and operate a store that sells children's clothing and other products for children. I am very concerned about toxic chemicals used in products my family uses every day. Many contain chemicals which have been banned in other countries due to links to rising rates of cancer, diabetes, reproductive and learning disorders, and other serious conditions. I support SB 274 because I want to be sure that the products we buy for our daughter and those I sell in my store are safe!

As the parent of a small child, I attempt to maintain as healthy an environment as possible for her to grow up in. I try to avoid products that contain chemicals of concern, such as bisphenol-A and others, but it is not possible to avoid the problem by careful shopping. I applaud efforts by others to get those substances banned as has been done in Connecticut in recent years. But the one-at-a-time approach will never begin to address the huge number of untested chemicals on the market today. Of 83,000 chemicals in use, only 5 have been fully regulated. 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.

Opponents to the bill suggest that it may be harmful to businesses. As the owner of a small business, I must disagree. I believe that consumers want healthy products for their families and that businesses want to satisfy their customers. Safer alternatives are being studied and many are available in other markets, such as the EU, where chemicals of concern are regulated based on the precautionary principle. Manufacturers are increasingly aware that states want to take action. By being proactive, CT businesses will have information on chemicals that is important to consumers. Parents are tired of wondering what products are safe for their children! This proposal helps them to know what is important to consumers based on the evolving scientific evidence.

I urge the Public Health Committee to support SB 274 - an important bill which will identify chemicals of high concern and protect children from exposure to these dangerous toxins.

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