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Testimony Before The Committee on Public Health

In Support of Senate Bill 274 AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN

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

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I am in support of SB 274 AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN.

As citizens of the United States we have the right to full disclosure of chemicals of high concern for our children, that is the human being, and in utero, before they are delivered into a world of more unknowns. A list of such chemicals must be researched, tested, established, and made known to the public of these United States, for healthier, educated choices and to lend precaution for the manufacturer and consumer to exercise. The 'cost' of this issue is the cost of the 'quality of life' and in some cases, the loss of that life, of our children and in stages of development while in utero and on. Keeping our society ignorant at the price of a child is indeed costly. This is not a 3rd world country, yet we have little or no regulations on over 83,000 chemicals while the European Union and Canada have established high children priority.

*I had the privilege of showing a film forum this Saturday on Toxic Toys and Products: **CONTAMINATED Without Consent & Toy Toxins, PBS**, and looking directly into the eyes of mothers and fathers that clearly said they were not only 'concerned' they were scared for their children with all the chemical exposure and didn't know how exposed their loved ones were going be in their developing....**Phthalates, lead, still, bisphenol-A, flame human retardants, TRIS.....to name a few. Known endocrine disruptors have come to be near impossible to avoid on many levels...***

When companies are sitting in a board room discussing cost risk factors of chemicals....what species are we talking here? What are we feeding into, continuing to turn a blind eye..No..too many symptoms. **It's hard to see the eyes of parents filled with concern, and the eyes of their children holding on to life in CT's children's hospitals. Parents want to become more educated.**

'Pre-caution' means before....before the exposure to toxic chemicals...

When a parent runs to the store to buy an apple in one hand and a toy for his infant or child in another, he wants to gratify.....He speaks to them to gratify, to bring pleasure, not to expose them to chemical toxins associated with 'rising' carcinomas, birth abnormalities, learning disabilities....!

Our toxic chemicals are in part like loaded guns...The triggers may not exhibit illness until later in development....

The term 'endocrine disruptor' was coined way back in 1991 by Theo Colborn, leading authority on endocrine disrupting chemicals-the hormone system. I will share here that 'endo' is Greek for 'inside'....When we remove ourselves from the board room and learn that by the second trimester of a women's pregnancy...during the critical periods of fetal genital development, it is known that some of these 'endocrine disruptor's' travel through the umbilical to the fetus, and disrupt and interrupt the hormones messengers. There is intelligent concern of many, Endocrinologist Dr. Frederick von Saal for one.... The correlation of mutations, in humans, such as with the male fetus, with 'hypospadias' another birth defect...this is of the urethra in the male that involves abnormally placed urinary (meatus), (the opening, or male external urethral orifice). Hypospadias opening, mutates anywhere on line (the urethral groove) running from the tip along the underside (ventral aspect) of the shaft to the junction of the penis and scrotum or perineum. (1995;Carlsen et al, 1995).

This is just the beginning of what can take place 'inside' - endo crine - the human fetus. Later on in life, they and other mature males may find that not only are there increased rates of testicular cancer, but a decrease in semen and, sperm quality, due to the probability of exposure to toxic CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN.

Let us too remember that DES estrogen/diethylstilbestrol given to pregnant women before its ban in 1970 was later linked to an increased risk of of vaginal and cervical cancers in their daughters....

It is imperative that we 'begin' to make law to regulate CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN to protect those in utero, and those that are delivered into our world.

Let this Spring not be Silent!

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