

**Blancato, Allison**

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**From:** david schneider [mailto:david.schneider@com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:21 PM

**To:** Blancato, Allison

**Subject:** H.B. # 5155, An Act Modifying the Ban on Pesticide Application on School Grounds

I am writing in opposition to this bill that, if passed, would permit the use of pesticides on school grounds for students in grade 8 and lower. It is sad to think that the legislature would even think that this would be a good idea.

There is a great deal of evidence, that I am sure will be presented to your committee, that shows the harmful short term and long term health effects on using pesticides, especially on children.

These problems are not just cancers but a number of other problems. Our state tries hard to protect our children in many ways. Banning pesticides is one of the most important things we can do.

There is no good reason to permit pesticide use. The "so called" IBM approach is simply a license to use pesticides while making it seem that some care is there. All studies have shown that IPM is not at all effective in stopping pesticide use.

Even if someone does not believe the massive evidence showing harm from pesticides, there is not harm in not using them.

My wife and I have spent the past year working with the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen to enact a policy to ban pesticides on town owned property. We have been working on this, as we are convinced that pesticides are harmful. Please do not weaken any of the protections that we now have for our children.

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