

Walter, Judith

From: Blancato, Allison
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 10:57 AM
To: Walter, Judith
Subject: FW: Bill 5155-"AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS"

From: NLubarsky
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 10:02 AM
To: Blancato, Allison
Subject: Bill 5155-"AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS"

Dear Ms. Blancato:

Please see below my written testimony in opposition to Bill No. 5155. I apologize for not being able to be present in person. Please provide said testimony to the legislators.

Thank you.

Neil R. Lubarsky
7 Stallion Trails
Greenwich, CT 06831

February 21, 2012

Re: Testimony Re Bill No. 5155
An Act Modifying the Ban on Pesticide Applications on School Grounds

The attempt to repeal the ban on the use of pesticides in and on the grounds of Schools attended by children in grades Kindergarten through 8 is an assault on our children, and puts not only their health, but also their lives, in danger. Having researched this matter carefully in the past, I can attest to the fact that a large number of studies have shown strong associations between exposure to various lawn care chemicals used to kill weeds and insects, and the incidence of certain types of cancer. One study showed that children who lived in homes where pesticides were used were four or five times as likely to develop certain types of cancers than those who did not have such chemicals used in their home environment. Another study showed that dogs living in homes where lawn care chemicals were used had a much higher cancer rate than those dogs living in homes where pesticides were not used. Various studies also indicate that other negative health impacts, including endocrine and hormone disruption, occur in humans as a result of exposure to pesticides. Because of the fact that children's cells divide more rapidly than adult cells, children generally experience a greater risk than adults from exposure to carcinogens. Children are also more at risk from being exposed to endocrine system disruptors (hormone disruptors) than adults, since their bodies are in the process of

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developing hormonally.

I served on the Board of an organization which donated much of its money to Make a Wish Foundation to help fund the last wishes of children with terminal diseases such as cancer. I always thought that it would preferable to spend our efforts preventing these cancers in the first place rather than having to deal with fulfilling the wishes of dying children.

Allowing, through any mechanism, including through the deceptive guise of "Integrated Pest Management" the re-introduction of chemical pesticides back on school grounds, would be the equivalent of deciding to roll back the clock to allow teachers to smoke on school grounds, while exposing children on a daily basis to carcinogenic second hand smoke. Since children have to attend school, regardless of their or their parents' wishes, they would have no choice but to be exposed daily to these dangerous chemicals, the exposure to which would increase their cancer risk.

As a Harvard Law School Graduate with a Columbia College Degree in economics, 30 years of experience practicing law, and experience writing a thesis which involved issues of taxation, economics and the environment, I can tell you that the proposed bill to allow Integrated Pest Management on school grounds does not make any economic sense. The use of toxic pesticides are currently prohibited on what is only a tiny fraction of Connecticut's land, yet we are significantly reducing children's health risks just by not using chemical pesticides on these school grounds. The economic cost to the chemical industry of such a prohibition is negligible, if it is anything at all. The protection of our children's health provided by the current law prohibiting use of chemical pesticides on school grounds is essential if we are to limit our children's exposure to carcinogens and endocrine disruptors.

As the father of two young children, I can tell you that there is nothing more important than protecting their health and future. Please continue to protect our children by keeping pesticides off school grounds.

Sincerely,

Neil R. Lubarsky
7 Stallion Trails
Greenwich,CT. 06831
(914)997-8558