

**CITIZENS  
CAMPAIGN**  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



[www.citizenscampaign.org](http://www.citizenscampaign.org)

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Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

## MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

### *Prohibiting Toxic Pesticides on High School Playing Fields*

**HB 6385 - An act prohibiting the use of pesticides at public schools**

#### BACKGROUND

In 2007, the Connecticut General Assembly set a nationwide precedent by banning the use of toxic pesticides on K-8 green spaces and playing fields, with the goal of protect children from exposure to harmful chemicals where they learn and play. The law went into effect in July of 2010, and has since been implemented with measurable success at public and private schools throughout Connecticut.

#### JUSTIFICATION

**Pesticides disproportionately hurt developing youths.** Volumes of peer-reviewed scientific evidence have indicated that pesticide exposure can adversely affect children's neurological, respiratory, immune, and endocrine systems, even at low levels. Long-term exposure to pesticides has even been linked to cancer. Short-term exposure can lead to headaches, dizziness, nausea, seizures, respiratory problems, and asthma attacks.

Children are uniquely vulnerable to pesticide exposures due to their physiology and rapid growth, and also because of their close proximity to these pesticides during normal play. Leading medical experts continue to urge the reduction of pesticide use as much as possible, especially on lawns and playing fields.

**Effective and affordable alternatives exist.** There is clear science showing that pests and weeds can not only be managed successfully with readily available and affordable non-toxic alternatives, but that schools and school districts that eliminate the use of chemical pesticides have also reported significant long-term financial savings.

**Citizens Campaign for the Environment supports expanding the existing K-8 pesticide ban on school green spaces and playing fields to all public and private school grounds in Connecticut.** Banning of non-essential pesticides on outdoor school grounds will help protect children's health, and can be done with no fiscal impact to the state and with no adverse financial impact to schools.

**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS HB 6385 –  
PROTECTING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM TOXIC PESTICIDES**

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*CCE is an 80,000 member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment*

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