



CONNECTICUT
FEDERATION
OF CATHOLIC
SCHOOL PARENTS

Raised Bill 6385 – An Act Prohibiting the Use of Pesticides at Public Schools
Education Committee
Public Hearing: February 15, 2013

The Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents respectfully OPPOSES the provisions of Raised Bill 6385 which would prohibit the application of pesticides at Connecticut's Catholic schools, except in the case of an emergency application (See Section 2).

Our opposition to RB 6385 is based upon the fact that it is already extremely expensive for Catholic schools to maintain their grounds and athletic fields for student activities and sports. If pesticides are completely prohibited, it is very likely that our grounds and athletic fields may quickly fall into irreversible disrepair.

There are 130 Catholic Schools in Connecticut, with an enrollment of more than 37,000 students. Unlike many of the public schools, very few Catholic schools can afford to have "astro-turf" fields for their athletic events. The groundskeepers at Catholic schools work very hard with limited funds to maintain the natural grounds and athletic fields for outdoor activities and athletic events. The provisions of this bill would make their jobs even more difficult.

Every day, Catholic schools in Connecticut fight to keep the tuition costs down for our 37,000 families. And our schools save taxpayers of the State of Connecticut about \$450 million each year in education costs because our students are not attending public schools.

We respectfully request that the members of the Education Committee amend RB 6385 to exempt Catholic schools from this proposal.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our position.

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Executive Director
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