



CONNECTICUT
FEDERATION
OF CATHOLIC
SCHOOL PARENTS

Raised Bill 981—An Act Concerning Pesticides on School Grounds

Committee on Children
Public Hearing: 3/5/13

The Connecticut Federation of Catholic School Parents respectfully OPPOSES the provisions of Raised Bill 981 which would prohibit the application of pesticides at Connecticut's Catholic schools.

Our opposition to RB 981 is based upon the fact that it is already extremely expensive for the Catholic schools to maintain the grounds and athletic fields for student activities and sports. If pesticides are completely prohibited, it is likely that our grounds and athletic fields may quickly fall into irreversible disrepair.

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

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

We are respectfully requesting the members of the Committee on Children to amend RB 981 to exempt Catholic Schools from this proposal.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our position.

Michael C. Culhane
Executive Director
Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference

Robert F. Shea, Jr.
Shea Law Inc.