

**Testimony of  
Environment and Human Health, Inc.**

by  
Nancy Alderman, President

**Bill No. 981**

**AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.**

**Senator Dante Bartolomeo, Representative Diana Urban, and Members of the  
Children's Committee:**

Environment and Human Health, Inc is in strong support of Bill 981, an act to expand the present ban on the use of lawn care pesticides in schools K-8 to now include students in grades nine through twelve.

Lawn-care pesticides are toxic and exposures to them can be especially harmful to children. Some pesticides are neuro-toxins, some are carcinogens, some cause cell mutations and some affect immune systems. Students should not be exposed to these chemicals at their schools without really good reasons – and using them on turf is not a really good reason.

In November 2012, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a stirring report linking pesticide exposures to children's illnesses, and called to limit exposures during the most susceptible period of life.

"Epidemiologic evidence demonstrates associations between early life exposure to pesticides and pediatric cancers, decreased cognitive function, and behavioral problems," stated the American Academy of Pediatrics in a 120-page document authored by the AAP's Council on Environmental Health, led by James Roberts, MD, MPH, and Catherine J. Karr, MD, PhD. "Recognizing and reducing problematic exposures will require attention to current inadequacies in medical training, public health tracking, and regulatory action on pesticides."

The findings mirrored the work of other medical bodies in Canada and elsewhere that have long found associations between pesticides - insect and weed killer and fungicides - and negative impacts on children.

<http://www.ewspf.com/opinion/38606-american-academy-of-pediatrics-offers-stern-pesticide-warning.html>

Lawn-care pesticides have few benefits and they are not worth the risks to children's health that they pose. When pesticides were looked at for their safety - they were judged by looking at the benefits for growing food to feed a nation - not for growing lawns and

turf. Nor were they looked at for having such intimate exposures as children playing on fields treated with pesticides.

Students in schools have no ability to protect themselves from these products and it is up to adults to protect them. Canada has banned these products in over 70 towns and cities in order to protect their public's health. Surely we in Connecticut can at least protect our school children.

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