

**Connecticut General Assembly**  
**Testimony on This Day of February 25th, 2013**  
**Before Committee on Environment, In Support of Senate Bill 16 AN ACT REQUIRING**  
**THE LABELING OF FOOD & DRINK PRODUCTS THAT ARE PACKED IN**  
**MATERIALS THAT CONTAIN BISPHENOL-A,**

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Good morning. My name is Joyce Acebo Raguskus, from Milford CT. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

"We are what we eat." A comment my 'ninety three' year young mother voices and prides herself growing up eating the 'recognizable' from her families organic garden. Do we really know what we ingest into our bodies and feed to our families? I support SB16 Requiring the Labeling of Food & Drink Products That Are Packed In Material That Contain Bisphenol-A. We have the right to full disclosure of chemicals of high concern for our well being, and to protect in utero, before they are delivered into a world of more unknowns.

Bisphenol-A, must be banned from our food packaging, the largest source of exposure to synthetic estrogen. It has been documented that business use roughly 8 billion pounds of BPA per year as of 2011!

This toxin, BPA, was Connecticut's trophy chemical toxic ban, for baby bottles, and the first state in our nation to do so, and for good reason. The toxic health factors associated with Bisphenol-A, a known endocrine disruptor, ('endo' is Greek for 'inside') coined as far back in 1991 with Theo Colborn, travels through the umbilical to the fetus, and disrupt and interrupt the hormone s messengers. This is just he beginning of their destructive path, sexual birth defects, testicular cancer, decrease in semen. American Medical Association adds diabetes heart disease and liver abnormalities. Even small amounts of bisphenol-A are to be cautioned. Yale University School of Medicine , research reports this toxin to breaks connections between brain cells, possibly leading to memory and learning impairment.

As I reported in last years testimony, the 'cost' of this issue is the cost of the quality of life, and in some cases the loss of that life, of our children and in stages of development. Non disclosure of labeling, keeping our society ignorant at the price of a child is indeed costly. This is not a 3rd world country, yet we have little or no protective regulations to test before and well over 83,000 chemicals lurking and a major diet into human beings, while the European Union and Canada have established high chemical regulations and high human health priority.

When companies and decision makers are sitting in the board room discussing cost risk factors of chemicals, labeling packaging...nutrition, where are the health hazards listed. What species are we talking here. What are we feeding into to accept non disclosure, continuing to hold a blind eye. People and parents want to learn to make healthy choices. Pre caution means before...before the exposure to toxic chemicals.

Organic food & drink packaged in toxic chemical bisphenol-A is not an acceptable serving for healthy people and is dangerous to human development.

I fully support Senate Bill 16 and urge you to come to the table and know what you are ingesting and lend your vote to this health bill.

I thank you for this honorable opportunity to speak and be heard.

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