



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE ELISSA T. WRIGHT
41ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 5003
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

HOME: 860-536-1813
CAPITOL: 860-240-8585
TOLL FREE: 800-842-1902
FAX: 860-240-0206
E-MAIL: Elissa.Wright@cga.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

MEMBER
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY OF
REPRESENTATIVE ELISSA WRIGHT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 41ST DISTRICT

S.B. 16, AN ACT REQUIRING THE LABELING OF FOOD AND DRINK PRODUCTS THAT ARE PACKAGED IN MATERIALS THAT CONTAIN BISPHENOL-A.

Environment Committee Public Hearing – February 25, 2013

Senator Myer, Representative Gentile, members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of *S.B. 16, AN ACT REQUIRING THE LABELING OF FOOD AND DRINK PRODUCTS THAT ARE PACKAGED IN MATERIALS THAT CONTAIN BISPEHONOL-A.*

Bisphenol A (BPA) is an estrogenic environmental chemical produced in large quantities for use in the manufacture of epoxy resins, polycarbonate plastics, dental sealants, and water supply pipes.

Of particular concern is the use of BPA in food and beverage plastic storage and heating containers and to line metal food cans. Leaching of BPA occurs from the resin lining of metal cans and from plastic food and beverage containers under normal use.

Concerns about the potential for a relationship between BPA and negative trends in human health in recent decades¹ have prompted Connecticut to be a national leader in banning bisphenol A from baby bottles, reusable food containers, and cash register receipt paper.

With regard to items we eat and drink, it is important that consumers be provided with information regarding the content, which is why we require that packaged foods be labeled with ingredient and nutrition

¹ Examples include an increase in hormonally mediated cancers such as prostate and breast cancers; an increase in metabolic diseases including childhood insulin resistant type 2 diabetes and obesity; early sexual maturation in females; a decrease in sperm count; and an increase in neurobehavioural problems such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism. Much evidence exists that similar adverse effects are occurring in laboratory animals within the range of the exposure to BPA of a typical human being living in a developed country. Frederick S. vom Saal, et al. Chapel Hill bisphenol A panel consensus statement: Integration of mechanisms, effects on animals and potential to impact human health at current levels of exposure. *Reprod.Toxicol.* 2007 Aug-Sep 24 (2): 131-138

information. Because BPA leaches from food and drink containers, resulting in consumption, people have the right to know that they are consuming this chemical along with their foods. We find it a sufficient risk to ban the use of BPA in baby bottles, so we should at least provide parents, pregnant and nursing mothers, and other individuals concerned about exposure to chemicals with the information that will give them the option to avoid exposing themselves and their children.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present testimony on this issue today.