

Senator Edward Meyer and Representative Linda Gentile and members of the Environment Committee:
Ecological Health Organization, Inc. supports the following bills and offers full testimony on
**SB 916 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CIVIL PENALTIES FOR THE FAULTY, CARELESS OR
NEGLIGENT APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES.**

S.B. No. 914 AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT MUNICIPAL PARKS

**S.B. No. 916 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CIVIL PENALTIES FOR THE FAULTY, CARELESS OR NEGLIGENT
APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES.**

**S.B. No. 917 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CERTAIN MICROBIAL AND BIOCHEMICAL PESTICIDES AND
GRUB CONTROL PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.**

H.B. No. 6440 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES AND THE APPLICATION OF LAWN CARE PESTICIDES.

My name is Carolyn Wysocki and I submit this testimony as President of Ecological Health Organization, Inc. (ECHO) and on behalf of our members. I very much wanted to come and testify in person, however I have a medical condition that prevents me from being able to attend the hearing today.

In January 1992, 21 years ago, ECHO was formed as a statewide nonprofit, advocacy, support, education and referral organization for people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) and for others who care about its prevention. We are one of the first organizations in Connecticut linking environmental issues and public health and our MCS members are living proof of the linkages between the environment and health.

Many of our members report severe reactions to chemicals found in pesticides and herbicides. These reactions include asthma attacks, skin rashes, and burning of the skin, headaches, sore throat, bronchitis and chronic sinusitis.

Due to severe reactions to pesticides, most of our members are on the pesticide notification list. According to Connecticut law, pesticide applicators are required to notify them in advance of any lawn applications to properties which abut their property. They must avoid pesticides in order to insure that they do not become ill and have adverse health reactions as those noted above.

Last year one of our members discovered that a pesticide application had been made to her property in error, by a pesticide applicator who was at the wrong address. She had an immediate adverse reaction. Her eyes and skin were burning, she experienced a sore throat and become disoriented and extremely fatigued. She continued to experience adverse health effects and was not able to open her windows for the entire summer season after this reckless application of poisons to her property. Literature on the subject noted that it could be 2 years or more before all of the herbicides dissipated from her property.

We have learned that there was no law in Connecticut to penalize a company for applying pesticides to the wrong property. Our member asked in her written testimony to this committee, **"How is it possible that applying poisons to someone's property, who not only doesn't want them, but is extremely sickened by them, is not considered a misapplication of pesticides?"**

Many people who react adversely to pesticides and/or chose not to be exposed to them due to health concerns. We urgently need penalties in place that will punish pesticide applicators who carelessly apply pesticides to the wrong property. **Please assure us that this legislation clearly spells out that there is a \$2,500.00 fine for applying pesticides to the wrong property.**

If this is the intent of this bill, then ECHO enthusiastically supports the legislation today. **Preventing chemical injury and MCS is the reason ECHO supports SB 916 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CIVIL PENALTIES FOR THE FAULTY, CARELESS OR NEGLIGENT APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES.**