



University of Connecticut  
*Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences*

College of Liberal Arts  
and Sciences

Co-Chairs Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, ranking members Senator Welch, Representative Srinivasan and members of the public health committee, thank you for raising these bills and bringing them to public hearing for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 6214.

Survey data from the Center for Disease Control suggest that 12.5% of school aged children (6-19) are demonstrating hearing losses consistent with noise exposure (Niskar et al., 2001). Once a child fails a hearing test, irreversible damage has already occurred and can continue to worsen. However, it is 100% preventable. In order to prevent the incidence and progression of noise-induced hearing loss, education to parents of young children would help to change the culture that suggests louder is better and to educate families that it doesn't have to hurt to create permanent damage. I support developing materials for the Head Start pre-school population to educate parents on the importance of protecting their children's hearing.

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Clinical Audiologist

References:

Niskar AS, Kieszak SM, Holmes AE, Esteban E, Rubin C, Brody DJ, Estimated prevalence of noise-induced hearing threshold shifts among children 6 to 19 years of age: the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1988-1994, United States, *Pediatrics*. 2001 Jul;108(1):40-3.

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Meinke & Dice, Comparison of Audiometric Screening Criteria for the Identification of Noise-Induced Hearing Loss in Adolescents, American Journal of Audiology. December 2007; Vol. 16, S190-S202.

American Academy of Audiology Fact Sheet

<http://www.audiology.org/resources/consumer/Documents/FSHearingLossChildren08.pdf>

Robert V. Harrison PhD DS, Noise induced hearing loss in children; a "less than silent" environmental danger. [http://www.hearingfoundation.ca/User/Docs/Harrison\\_Noise\\_induced\\_hearing\\_loss\\_paper\\_formatted\\_1.pdf](http://www.hearingfoundation.ca/User/Docs/Harrison_Noise_induced_hearing_loss_paper_formatted_1.pdf)