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TESTIMONY OF REPRESENTATIVE ELISSA WRIGHT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE 41ST DISTRICT

*S.B. 316 (RAISED), AN ACT REQUIRING THE LABELING OF FOOD PRODUCTS THAT ARE
PACKAGED IN MATERIALS THAT CONTAIN BISPHENOL-A.*

Environment Committee Public Hearing – March 7, 2014

Senator Myer, Representative Gentile, members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of *S.B. 316, AN ACT REQUIRING THE LABELING OF FOOD 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.

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; uro-genital abnormalities in male babies; 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

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 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.

According to a recent study published last month, BPA exposure results in nearly \$3 billion per year in social and health care costs associated with childhood obesity and adult heart disease. In addition to improving the health of our community, removing or reducing BPA from food uses could significantly reduce the incidence of those diseases and yield potential economic benefits of some \$1.74 billion annually.²

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

² Leonardo Trasande, Further Limiting Bisphenol A in Food Uses Could Provide Health and Economic Benefits, *Health Affairs*, 33, no.2 (2014): 316-323 (published online January 22, 2014; 10.1377/hlthaff.2013.0686)