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Prevalence statistics show the following:

- Leukemia and other childhood cancers have increased by more than 20% since 1975
- Breast cancer incidence rose more than 40% between 1973 and 1988. Currently, invasive breast cancer is affecting young women at an alarming rate. One in eight women will get a breast cancer diagnosis
- Asthma incidence doubled between 1980 and 1995 and continues to rise, affecting 12 million Americans
- Early puberty is on the rise and is often a precursor to other diseases including breast cancer.
- Learning and developmental disorders including autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder affect nearly one in six children in the U.S! In the last 20 years, the prevalence of autism increased by 300%.³

In fact, just last week, research published in *Lancet Neurology*, a medical journal, called the extreme rise in impaired brain development of infants and young children "***a global silent pandemic***" and urged that precautionary measures be taken to reduce exposure to toxic chemicals. ⁴ Dr. Landrigan, noted physician and researcher on the health impacts of exposure to chemicals in products, stated "Since 1950, over 70,000 chemicals have been invented and dispersed into the environment. Only a fraction of these have been tested for human toxicity. We are, by default, conducting a massive clinical toxicology trial and our children and their children are the experimental animals." ⁵

II) Federal reform of TSCA is not likely to happen soon.

While efforts to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) are underway, meaningful reform is not likely to happen anytime soon. When TSCA was enacted in 1976, approximately 62,000 chemicals were grandfathered into place with no safety testing. Approximately 84,000 chemicals now exist in commerce and still, only about 5% have been required to be safety tested and of these, only 5 have been fully regulated in consumer products. Under TSCA, the federal government is unable to regulate a chemical ***unless*** it proves that the chemical poses an ***unreasonable risk to health***. In fact, under TSCA, the U.S. EPA was not successful in their attempt to regulate asbestos, a known human carcinogen, because they were unable to meet this burden of proof when sued by the chemical industry.

Since TSCA was enacted, our understanding of the health impacts of exposure to chemicals in consumer products has advanced significantly. There is general consensus among the scientific and medical communities that our exposure to toxic chemicals in products is very likely contributing to

³ See <http://healthreport.saferchemicals.org/> at p. 3.

⁴ http://download.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/laneur/PIIS1474442213702783.pdf?id=aaaGMazCz_6mj9HR5g0ru

⁵ Herbert L. Needleman MD, Philip Landrigan MD, "*Raising Children Toxic Free*" (1994)



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Testimony of Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD;
Co-Director, CT Clean Water Action and Coordinator of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut.

Before the CT General Assembly's Public Health Committee, February 28, 2014

Testimony in support of HB 5354, An Act Concerning Chemicals of High Concern to Children

Good afternoon Representative Urban, Senator Bartolomeo and distinguished members of the Children's Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I speak in support of HB 5354, An Act Concerning Chemicals of High Concern to Children.

My name is Anne Hulick, and I am the Co-Director of CT Clean Water Action and the Coordinator of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut (Coalition). I am also a nurse with many years of experience in environmental health. The Coalition is a large advocacy organization comprised of over fifty-five member organizations of health professionals, environmental justice advocates, labor groups, public health professionals, environmental experts, faith based groups, scientists and many individuals across Connecticut that are concerned about the growing body of research linking exposure to toxic chemicals with the rise in serious diseases. Toxic chemical exposure during critical windows of fetal development and to young infants and children is of particular concern.

The Coalition strongly supports HB 5354. I appreciate the opportunity to outline 3 major reasons for our support of this bill.

I) We have a right to know what is in products we purchase! The bill is simply a report.

We've learned a lot about the unintended consequences of toxic chemicals in consumer products. Research over the last 30 years strongly links exposure to toxic chemicals from products with the rising incidence of diseases, particularly in children.¹ There is growing consensus that exposure to toxic chemicals in consumer products, particularly for children, is the #1 suspect for the rise in many serious diseases. Analyses of umbilical cord blood of babies born in the U.S. shows the presence of an average of over 200 industrial chemicals, pesticides and chemicals known to be carcinogenic and neurotoxic and disruptive to the endocrine system.²

¹ Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, "*Chemicals and Our Health: Why Recent Science Is A Call To Action*" (2012), p. 3. available at: <http://healthreport.saferchemicals.org/>

² Available at: <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=newborn-babies-chemicals-exposure-bpa>



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the rise of many serious diseases in this country. Household cleaners, plastics, children's products and many other every day products have been found to contain over 70 chemicals of very high concern.⁶ With no expectation that this will be resolved at the federal level, states are taking action and CT should too!

III) The Chemical Innovations Institute was not intended to do this.

The Chemical Innovations Institute was established in 2010 to "provide assistance to businesses, state agencies and non-profit organizations **that seek** to utilize alternatives to chemicals that are harmful to public health and the environment." The Institute was **not** intended to serve in a regulatory capacity or to guide state or federal chemical policy. The Institute also was not funded by the state. There always has been and continues to be an important role for state government to enact policies that protect health.

This bill provides a report, information based on science that you can use to guide policies to protect the health of children. The Department of Public Health fully supports this bill. It will cost the state nothing. It will provide consumers with information that they increasingly demand.

We urge your support of HB 5354 and urge you to work to pass it this session.

Sincerely,

Anne Hulick

⁶ The Center for International Environmental Law, "*Driving Innovation: How stronger laws help bring safer chemicals to market.*" (2013), p.4.

