

Legislative Children's Committee
Public Hearing on SB 46
March 5, 2014
Testimony by Amanda J. Wendt

My name is Amanda Wendt and I am from Trumbull. I am asking for you to support Bill SB 46 to ban lawn pesticides on high school grounds.

I am a mother to two children, and am grateful that Connecticut has a ban so that the elementary school my child attends does not expose her to pesticides. As a room mother and a member of our school's Wellness Committee, I am able to see the children outside during recess often. They frolic in the grass and have a wonderful time. If that ban was not in place, I would be greatly concerned. So I was extremely surprised to learn that this ban does not include our high school students as well. Why?

High school students who participate in sports greatly increase their exposure to the toxic effects of lawn pesticides like soccer fields, football fields. This can also extend to other groups/clubs like Marching Bands who spend their time practicing on those fields as well.

One of the more common chemicals used in lawn pesticide application is 2,4-D for broadleaf control. As the daughter of a Vietnam Veteran I can tell you that Agent Orange, which contained 2,4-D can have lifelong and devastating effects on people. Why would we continue to expose our children, who are more vulnerable than adults, to a chemical that has been proven to cause so much harm?

As my children grow and develop I would like to know that the state I live in protects my children from harmful pesticides throughout their school career. Not just through 8th grade.

Please support expanding this ban to include high schools as well.

Sincerely,

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