



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 Children's Committee, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Testimony in support of SB 46, An Act Concerning Pesticides on School Grounds**

Good afternoon Representative Urban, Senator Bartolomeo and distinguished members of the Children's Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

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 SB 46. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Coalition.

We've learned a lot about the unintended consequences of toxic chemicals. Exposure to pesticides poses a high risk to a developing fetus and children. Research over the last 30 years strongly links exposure to toxic chemicals from products with the rising incidence of diseases, particularly in children.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

Pesticides are a group of chemicals specifically designed to be toxic. Many work by being toxic to the brain and nervous system. Dr. Landrigan, noted physician and researcher on the health impacts of

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<sup>1</sup> 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/>

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



exposure to chemicals, 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."<sup>3</sup>

Exposure to chemicals found in pesticides is linked to impaired brain development and we now know that 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%.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

I urge you to watch a 16 minute documentary titled "Contaminated Without Consent" It can be found here: <http://www.contaminatedwithoutconsent.org/home.php>. The study on children exposed to pesticides was shocking.

We support any measure to reduce exposure to harmful pesticides and urge you to vote in favor of SB 46.

Sincerely,

Anne Hullick

<sup>3</sup> Herbert L. Needleman MD, Phillip Landrigan MD, "Raising Children Toxic Free" (1994)

<sup>4</sup> See <http://healthreport.safetchemicals.org/> at p. 3.

<sup>5</sup> [http://download.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanew/PIIS1474442213702783.pdf?tid=aaGMazCz\\_6mj9HR5g0ru](http://download.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanew/PIIS1474442213702783.pdf?tid=aaGMazCz_6mj9HR5g0ru)