

**Connecticut General Assembly
Testimony Before the Children's Committee
In Support of HB 5354 AN ACT CONCERNING
CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN**

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Concerns Coalition, Clean Water Action, Advocate, Coalition For
A Safe & Healthy CT**

**My name is Joyce Acebo~Raguskus and I thank you for this
privilege to speak in support of HB 5354 AN ACT CONCERNING
CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN.**

I ALSO SUPPORT:

HB 5035 CONCERNING FIRE RETARDANTS,

**HB5036 CHILDREN'S "PRODUCTS" & CHEMICALS OF HIGH
CONCERN**

HB5305 CADMIUM LEVELS CHILDREN'S JEWELRY.

SB46 CONCERNING PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

**PARENT'S HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW CHEMICAL OF HIGH
CONCERN, WHAT IS IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS, AND WHAT
CHEMICALS ARE USED ON SCHOOL GROUNDS. THEY HAVE A
RIGHT TO A REPORT OF CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN. CT
LEADS FIRST IN OUR NATION TO PASS A BAN BPA,
BISPHENOL-A (endocrine disruptor), AND PASSING A RIGHT
TO KNOW BILL ON GMO'S. THESE ARE THE SAME
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.**

**All of these Bills are asking you to help in the reduction of
exposures to toxic chemicals, known to be associated with
terrible children's diseases and disorders, which are on the rise,
as we sit here deliberating...**

**THE UMBILICAL CORD CONTAINS WELL OVER 200 TOXIC
CHEMICALS INCLUDING PESTICIDES, PCBS...listed in this
testimony. We are delivering toxic babies into this world.**

This is so not acceptable. Such detrimental toxins do not belong into the life line, the umbilical cord and into newly developing human beings.

I do not believe that we want to continue this flood of contaminating new life.

Chemical warfare is not a concept here. The reality is that vulnerability to chemicals occurs in utero, during infancy, and in early childhood. The number of chemicals known to be toxic to children's developing brains has DOUBLED OVER THE LAST SEVEN YEARS! ref. Dr. Philip Landrigan, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, Dr. Philippe Grandjean, Harvard School of Public Health.

Biomonitoring studies demonstrating such toxic chemicals in umbilical cords, NO, they do not belong there! I ask, is there anyone here who would deny that the unborn are at war with these chemical invaders. The industry that for decades has flooded the consumer market with known toxins, supports this invasion. We need to overhaul the regulatory process worldwide in order to protect children's brains. We must start state by state, right here in these rooms!

These chemicals are permanently damaging to the brain. The fragile developing brain in utero, the body's most uniquely vulnerable organ, is in our hands, your hands, and everyone in this room...ally or not.

We have allowed this chemical warfare, with few regulations, federal safe chemical laws that have not been updated since the 70's (TSCA), leaving ourselves wide open to danger. Thirty years of study has identified neurotoxins that impact brain development and cause a number of neurodevelopment disabilities, including attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, dyslexia and other cognitive damage, irreversible damage.

Let us join together and be on the side of prevention for the unborn, not the side of 'passive destruction,' contributing to rising illness in our children. PARENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW AND A LIST OF CHEMICALS OF CONCERN and stop exposures such as pesticides on school grounds, which trail into homes for long periods.

As Dr. Landrigan shares, children will struggle from birth and are at "risk of becoming the first generation in a century to live shorter, less healthy lives than their parents. Science is showing strong correlations between exposures to synthetic chemicals in the environment and increasing rates of such chronic diseases in children such as asthmas, autism. Type2 diabetes, ADHA, leukemia and yes brain cancer." This should be alarming to us all who have the mind to make healthy minds.

Do we want to continue flooding the umbilical with lead, methyl mercury, arsenic, polychlorinated biphenyls, (PCBS) and toluene, and more. I don't think so.

My goodness, what living cell has a chance for a healthy life?

In closing I would like to thank you for your continued diligence and compassion for the welfare of our children of CT.

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