

Lauralyn Lewis

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Re: **S.B. No. 46** - An Act Concerning Pesticides on School Grounds

Today I ask the legislators on the Children's Committee to support SB-46; to expand the current ban prohibiting the use of the lawn care pesticides on the grounds of preschools through grade eight to now include grades nine through twelve. Lawn care pesticides are some of the most toxic chemicals we are exposed to. These chemicals are linked to cancer and birth defects.

A number of you were involved in the bold act of passing historic legislation for GMO labeling here in Connecticut. Connecticut also passed legislation to ban pesticides from elementary and middle school playing fields. Now it is time to apply that same common sense once again and take a stand to protect older children. The arguments for and against the use of pesticides remain consistent. For every study that shows these chemicals are dangerous to human health the industry can present studies that show they are safe. I ask you to take this stand using the precautionary principle and follow the lead that many countries adhere to, countries that are not willing to roll the dice on human health. Children of all ages depend on us to keep them safe. We are all exposed to a variety of toxins daily due to the lack of oversight and the politics that allow for that. Connecticut legislators, it is time to take the necessary bold action to protect all of Connecticut's children. It is important to now go beyond what is at the end of our forks and protect the grounds where our children spend a significant part of their young lives.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauralyn Lewis