

Testimony of Tom Swan

Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

Before the Committee on Children

In Support of HB 5036 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN AND SB 46 AAC PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDDS

February 28, 2014

Good Afternoon Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and other members of the Committee on Children, my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the CT Citizen Action Group (CCAG). On behalf of CCAG's over 25,000 member families I want to thank you for raising HB 5036 AAC CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN and SB 46 AAC PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS. We also want to express our shock that the opposition to such a basic pieces of legislation continue to get taken seriously. As a parent of a near three year old I urge you to adopt these pieces of legislation on behalf of my daughter and all of the children of CT.

We all know how after being widely used many chemicals have been proven to be very harmful to people and our environment and how industry often knowingly denied the potential harm and have spent millions fighting the public's right to know. Whether it be the Koch brothers and other petrochemical companies denying that climate change is being driven by humans or the tobacco companies denying cigarettes are addictive, or lead paint companies saying the the elimination of lead in paint would have a catastrophic impact on our economy we see a similar playbook being used by industry as we are seeing used here by the chemical industry and their minions – deny, deflect, and mischaracterize.

I am confident that this committee will see through this and that you will act on behalf of our children.

I want to remind us what we are talking about by quoting part 2 of section 1:

Priority chemical" means a chemical identified by the Commissioner of Public Health that is known, on the basis of credible scientific evidence, to: (A) Harm the normal development of a fetus or child or cause other developmental toxicity; (B) cause cancer, genetic damage or reproductive harm; (C) disrupt the endocrine system; (D) damage the nervous system, immune system or organs or cause other systemic toxicity; (E) be persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic; or (F) be very persistent and very bioaccumulative.

The second bill SB 46 just builds off successful legislation to protect our kids at earlier ages. These younger children utilize facilities at high schools and older children should limit their exposure too. It should also be pointed out the sky did not fall as our opponents claimed with the earlier ban and it will not again.

This debate is clear - will CT side with our children or with the people willing to poison them.

I am confident you will side with our children. Thank you for your consideration.