

**Connecticut General Assembly
Testimony Before the Children's Committee
In Support of HB5354 AN ACT CONCERNING
CHEMICAL'S OF HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN
March 6, 2014 Hartford, CT**

My name is Karen L. Hovan, of Stratford, CT. Thank you for this opportunity to speak before the Children's Committee. I am a retired Connecticut Public School Educator.

During my 44 year teaching reign, I had the privilege of sharing my passion with thousands of inspiring students. Many were academically gifted. Others presented challenges not only to themselves, but to others as well. Such challenges were accepted and tailored individually to set the stage for an appropriate learning environment.

ADHD, Autistic Spectrum, Behavioral Issues, Learning Disorders and more are characteristic of the youth enrolled in our schools. Causes of the challenges these students present are being defined by research and unfolding daily.

Additionally, some in the student population are described as lazy, unmotivated, forgetful and non compliant. They are not. The environment they were raised in played a key role in the characteristics they display.

In education, we are on the receiving end of the children our environment raises. We do not have the legislative power to make the changes necessary for all students to learn in a more positive way.

Teachers make significant changes in their classrooms to adapt to the challenges of environmental causes. Consider your concern and more importantly, the power of your vote. Here is an opportunity for you to make the necessary changes in the lives of the children we will teach. Your vote will either hinder their success or make them successful.

I encourage you to support HB5354. I also support and look to your vote on the following Bills: HB5305 Concerning Fire Retardants, HB5036 Children's Products & Chemicals of High Concern, HB5305 Cadmium Levels in Children's Jewelry, and SB46 Concerning Pesticides on School Grounds.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Hovan

30 Deepwood Road

Stratford, CT 06614