

Diane St John SB 46

Please support SB-46 to ban lawn pesticides on high school grounds. In our town of Durham, CT our District 13 high school was sprayed right before the kids returned to school. Kids and teachers were unknowingly walking across the lawn in preparation of the upcoming school days! When I spoke up, several teachers were very upset the groundskeeper chose to have this application done. When I went into the school to speak to him about the yellow signs he said "We have tried everything to get rid of the weeds-nothing else works." I tried to explain to him the lawn was extremely compacted and had little grass growing in it anyway. The Tru Green chemical application was not working either, it was exposing our community to harmful, unnecessary chemicals. It also gets mowed extremely short so good cultural practices are not being followed. It was made up of clover, dandelions and crabgrass. There was no way an application made by the Tru Green company was going to help this lawn. It needed to be aerated, a thin layer of compost added and reseeded. Even then, this is where the kids WALK so it will only be compacted again. The mix of clover, dandelions and crabgrass WAS GREEN and from the sidewalk looked fine. There is NO NEED to expose our teens to these harmful chemicals in order to have the so-called perfect lawn. As a mom of 3, I am extremely proud of the State of CT for protecting our K-8 children. We need to carry this through to the high school age children too!

Last summer I went to Community Lake Park in Wallingford to bike ride on the Quinnipiac Linear Trail with my family and we left when we saw the lawn had recently been sprayed the day before. The little yellow pesticide signs were posted and there were families enjoying the park and having parties in the pavilion, children running across the lawn and playing games. It made me very sad knowing all those people were being exposed to the chemicals. The general public has no idea the danger they are being exposed to. We need to protect our citizens from these dangers.

Thank you for listening,
Diane St John
Mom of 3 children ages 9, 11 and 13.
and
CT Master Gardener
Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Professional
Accredited Organic Land Care Professional
Natureworks Garden Center Manager