

From: Jody Rodiger <jrodiger@ctdiocese.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 3:19 PM
To: PHC Testimony
Subject: An Act Concerning Children's Exposure to Chemicals - Senate Bill 126 & House Bill 5036
Attachments: Protect Our Children From Toxic Chemicals - SB 126 & HB 5036.pdf

Good Afternoon Public Health Committee:

Thank you for your good work. Attached please find a my testimony for SB 126 and HB 5036.

Peace,

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"...and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

Protect Our Children From Toxic Chemicals

<http://irejn.org/protect-our-children-from-toxic-chemicals/>

email testimony to phc.testimony@cga.ct.gov

An Act Concerning Children's Exposure to Chemicals

Senate Bill 126 & House Bill 5036

February 25, 2014

Dear Legislators:

As a person of faith I am writing today to support this bill that both protects our children in CT and also our Environment.

I am a victim of chemical health issues and hope that the next generation does not suffer as I have during my lifetime. I found out at age 40 that my infertility was caused by pesticide contact as a young child and at age 50 I struggled with undiagnosed condition and today I understand my new life living with the disease Lymphedema.

For far too long we have been letting the big chemical companies rule the land and pollute our communities. Please stand up to protect our health and the health of the next generation. Please read this information from the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network.

There are tens of thousands of chemicals in commerce today – in our clothing, toys, sheets, cosmetics, etc. Not surprisingly, the incidence of many serious diseases is on the rise in this country! Please support this bill to protect children from harmful chemicals.

- Childhood brain cancer and leukemia has risen over 20% since the 1970's
- Cancer is now the 2nd leading cause of death for people under the age of 20
- Adult cancers of the breast, prostate, thyroid and kidney are on the rise.
- Autism spectrum disorder has seen a ten-fold increase in just over 15 years
- Learning and behavioral disorders like attention deficit hyperactivity disorder now affect over 2 million children
- Reproductive disorders including infertility and early puberty now affect 40% more women than in 1982.

Scientific research **strongly** links early life exposure, beginning in the womb, to toxic chemicals in products in our homes and environment with the rising incidence of these diseases. We can do better and, for the sake of our children, we must do better.

Senate Bill 126 will identify harmful chemicals in children's products. The bill is simply a report to the Legislature. It gives us information on what is in products and provides lawmakers with actions to help us reduce exposure. It won't harm business and there is NO COST to the state!

Thank you for your good work and please support this bill for the health of our communities.

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