

Elaine Titus
West Simsbury, CT

Testimony in favor of HB 5330

AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT PARKS,
PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS.

To protect children's health from exposure to toxic lawn pesticides by applying the same restrictions concerning the application of lawn pesticides at school grounds to the application of pesticides at parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and municipal greens.

I have two children who both played sports in the spring and fall for nearly a decade on the town athletic fields starting from kindergarten through 7th grade . My youngest child is now a freshman in high school. One of the things that we looked forward to enjoying together as a family was the time after school to watch our children play soccer on the town athletic fields in the fall and lacrosse in the spring. An activity that many families in our communities enjoy.

According to research, 60% of kids play sports outside of school. That means that the current law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides that covers school grounds from kindergarten through grade 8 is not protecting a large majority of our children who leave school each and every day to play their favorite sport on the town athletic fields. We know that the most commonly used pesticides are 2,4-D (the main ingredient in Agent Orange used in Vietnam) and Glyphosate (the main ingredient in Round UP). We also know that these toxic lawn chemicals are linked to cancer, birth defects, reproductive issues, neurological damage, liver and kidney damage and endocrine disruption. We have seen an exponential growth in neurological disorders such as hyperactivity, developmental delays, behavioral disorders and motor dysfunction that may be linked to our children's exposure to these chemicals. Children age 6-11 have the highest level of chemicals in their blood than all other age categories according to studies. Our innocent children are exposed to these toxic chemicals through drift, hand-to-mouth behavior and unknowingly tracking it into our homes. If we don't take action now to extend the ban our children will continue to be exposed to these life threatening, toxic chemicals. Instead of running around happily playing sports, they will be sick at home or in a hospital fighting deadly diseases and disorders like cancer. Young mothers will have reproductive issues like my friend who lived near a golf course and couldn't conceive but when she moved away was quickly able to get pregnant and have the family that she dreamed of. Young mothers will also give birth to children with birth defects and may never be able to enjoy playing or watching sports on our athletic fields with their families.

If we extend the ban to parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and municipal greens, we can protect our children and ensure that they live a life filled with joy running around with their friends playing their favorite sports. Please support HB 5330 and give our children the future they deserve free from TOXIC CHEMICAL TRESPASS.