

Kathleen Heslin, RN, MA, COHN-S/CM SB 126

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Written Only Testimony of Kathleen Heslin, RN Resident of Stamford, CT

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Public Health Committee

February 28, 2014

**Testimony in support of SB 126, An Act Concerning Children's Exposure to Chemicals**

Senator Gerratanna, Representative Johnson and honorable members of the Public Health Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 126, An Act Concerning Children's Exposure to Chemicals.

I write to you as a Certified Occupational Health Nurse, a mother, a citizen of Connecticut, *a relative of several recent cancer survivors*, and as a consumer of goods and services, to express my concern regarding the physical and mental health of the children of CT and our future children/ grandchildren, as well as the health of the adults and the surrounding environment- relative to our individual and collective exposure to chemicals of concern.

I believe that parents/ citizens have a "Right to Know" about chemicals of concern, particularly when they are substances found in children's products.

You are no doubt aware of the statistics regarding the increases in children's brain cancer, leukemia, and learning and behavioral disorders- which includes autism and attention deficit disorders. There has also been a significant rise in asthma, insulin-resistance , diabetes and obesity- related to chemicals of concern which act as endocrine disruptors.

**It is time to take precautionary measures such as those included in this bill.**

- 1) This bill is simply a report of harmful chemicals in products that pose an exposure hazard to in utero development of babies and to young children. It requires the DPH to identify chemicals of concern to children based on toxicity and hazard exposure -and to make recommendations for action to the legislature every two years.
- 2) We need regulatory agencies and our legislature to set policies that protect public health.
- 3) This bill has no fiscal impact to the State of Connecticut.

I urge you to support passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Heslin

