

Testimony of Tom Swan

Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

In Support of RB 126 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN'S EXPOSURE TO CHEMICALS

February 28, 2014

Good Afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and other members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the CT Citizen Action Group (CCAG). On behalf of CCAG's over 20,000 member families I want to thank you for raising SB 126 AAC CHILDREN'S EXPOSURE TO CHEMICALS and to express our shock that there is any opposition to such a basic piece of legislation. As a parent of a near three year old I urge you to adopt this legislation on behalf of my daughter and all of the children of CT.

We all know how after being widely used many chemicals have been proven to be very harmful to people and our environment and how industry often knowingly denied the potential harm and have spent millions fighting the public's right to know. Whether it be the Koch brothers and other petrochemical companies denying that climate change is being driven by humans or the tobacco companies denying cigarettes are addictive, or coal companies saying they do not need oversight in West Virginia or North Carolina we see a similar playbook being used by industry as we are seeing used here by the chemical industry and their minions – deny, deflect, and mischaracterize.

I am confident that this committee will see through this and that you will act on behalf of our children.

I want to remind us what we are talking about by quoting part 2 of section 1:

Priority chemical" means a chemical identified by the Commissioner of Public Health that is known, on the basis of credible scientific evidence, to: (A) Harm the normal development of a fetus or child or cause other developmental toxicity; (B) cause cancer, genetic damage or reproductive harm; (C) disrupt the endocrine system; (D) damage the nervous system, immune system or organs or cause other systemic toxicity; (E) be persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic; or (F) be very persistent and very bioaccumulative.

This debate is clear – will CT side with our children or with the people willing to poison them.

I am confident you will side with our children. Thank you for your consideration.