

Testimony of Environment and Human Health, Inc.

By Nancy Alderman, President

Bill 366

AN ACT EXTENDING THE BAN ON THE USE OF LAWN CARE PESTICIDES TO SCHOOLS THAT HOUSE GRADES NINE THROUGH TWELVE AND TO STATE FACILITIES.

Senator Ted Kennedy, Representative James Albis and Members of the Environment Committee

Environment and Human Health, Inc. is pleased to be in strong support of Bill 366

Pesticides are designed to kill living things and therefore they have inherent dangers and risks to health. Because of this, Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) is in strong support of this extension into high schools of the lawn-care pesticide ban on school grounds and fields.

However, some schools are having a problem with grubs in their athletic fields which causes these fields to be almost unusable. Because of this, EHHI is recommending that any Bill that extends the ban into high schools also includes a "**careful**" exemption for grub control for those fields having a grub infestation.

Grub exemption wording:

1. Fields that are infested with grubs should first use organic methods to get their grub problem under control.
2. Only if the organic methods fails, should a field then be treated with a chemical pesticide -- and it should be the least toxic pesticide on the market. A grub control product must be registered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and does not contain a signal label with a caution, warning or danger indication. At this time Acelepryn has low mammalian toxicity and could be the chemical of choice for grub control.
3. If a pesticide has to be applied, then the application must take place when the students are not in school - and the appropriate amount of time for the pesticide to dry must be observed before students can return to the field.

May we add, the State of Connecticut, under the DEEP, certifies pesticide applicators. It is time now for the State of Connecticut to also certify organic lawn care applicators. This will help the organic lawn care market grow and help the schools have better organic fields.

Thank you for your attention,
Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
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