

ATTN: ENVIIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MARCH 17, 2015

FROM: ANN BEAUDIN TESTIMONY FOR INPUT PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY MARCH 11, 2015 / I UNDERSTAND WRITTEN TESTIMONY IS STILL BEING ACCEPTED.

RE: SB 366 An Act concerning the ban on the use of lawn care pesticides on school ground grade through 12 inclusive and to state facilities. SB 1063 An Act concerning the application of pesticides on school grounds and certain public places, authorizing the use of certain microbial and reestablishing Pesticide Advisory Council

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**Dear Senator T. Kennedy, Representative J. Albis and members of the Environment Committee:**

**I ask your support regarding banning pesticide use on school grounds and public places. Although I serve on environment commissions and have been a long standing advocate for sound environmental protections I offer this testimony in my individual capacity and opinion as a concerned citizen and parent.**

**Many of us who are adding our voices to the importance of SB 366 and SB 1063 over the years have followed and read significant amounts of mounting data and research by doctors, ecologists, scientists, and environmentally conscious organizations. The data shows the staggering increase in respiratory and other illnesses among children and note the link to pollutants and pesticides..**

**We all wish to do the right thing for our children. My question to the Committee is, are we asking the right questions regarding pesticide use on school grounds and public places? Students spend a good part of their day at school and a good part of the year.**

- How frequently are pesticides applied to grounds in the course of a school year?**
- Are school leaders required to provide parents with written notification of all pesticide treatments listing the active and inactive chemical ingredients, the frequency of use, and possible effects?**
- How is pesticide drift addressed in terms of runoff to surrounding privately owned property, especially with owners who do not want or use pesticides?**
- Are private property owners protected from drift; what is restitution for exposure?**
- What is done to prevent pesticide runoff to waterways and habitats?**
- What accommodations are made for students with health issues that may pose allergic reaction to pesticides?**
- What is the total cost for pesticide applications per school, per year? How is it funded?**
- Why aren't towns researching and considering alternative non toxic measures to maintain school grounds and recreation areas?**

continued

**Whatever the half-life of a pesticide, repeated applications extend that life and diminish the quality of life. There are hundreds of studies and sources available with data showing results of long and short term pesticide exposure, health concerns, and rise in health issues and ultimate costs. Following is a list of a few sources. The references are offered to the best of my ability to extrapolate and relate the various studies. If there are any questions, I recommend interested parties refer to the cited information for further clarification.**

- 1) **CCE (Citizens Campaign for the Environment) Pesticides and our children's health The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Academy of Sciences, and American Public Health Association** recognize the danger that pesticide exposure pose to our children's health. The growing body of peer reviewed scientific evidence indicates that pesticide exposure can adversely affect a child's neurological, respiratory, immune, and endocrine system, even at low levels.
- 2) **Consumer Education Pesticide Safety series:** Children are much more susceptible to health effects of pesticides than adults because they have more skin surface for their size than adults and take more breaths per minute. Children's ability to degrade pesticides in the liver and immune system are not fully developed.
- 3) **CDC National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals using biomonitoring:** reference Belgium Action Plan to reduce risks and impacts linked to pesticides.
- 4) **NIH National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Report on Child Development and Environmental Toxins:** High pesticide exposure associated with cognitive decline.
- 5) **The National Poison Information Center (NPIC)** provides specific breakdown of various chemicals in all types of pesticides, including how they can affect people, pets, wildlife, air, water, and landscapes.
- 6) **International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health:** Study published April 2014 regarding commercially available pesticide with active ingredient glyphosate associated with lymphoma. A report found that the city has sprayed public green spaces more than 1, 300 times last year.
- 7) **Department of Environmental Health Guidance:** Potential harm from pesticides is especially important to consider in schools and day care centers because children are at greater risk from chemical exposure. Children are not little adults---from infants to teens-- they are growing and developing. Their bodies have not yet reached developmental maturity. This means they are more vulnerable to the toxic effects of many pesticides and chemicals.

**In closing, I cordially ask that those who believe in pesticide applications on school grounds and public places consider alternatives for healthful green spaces. It is vital that we find a common sound ground for using methods that meet recreational and sports objectives by working with natural ecosystems, beneficial insects, and time tested policies which unequivocally haven't the slightest potential of toxicity.**

**Personally, I would rather face a grub than a sign that states "Caution: Pesticide Application Keep Off."**

**Respectfully submitted,  
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