

**TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH GRABINSKI,
CHIEF EH&S STEWARD OF THE TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION 1150
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Children**

February 5, 2015

in support of HB 5653

An Act CONCERNING CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN FOR CHILDREN

Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, and honorable members of the the Committee on Children: My name is Joseph Grabinski, and I am the Chief EH&S Steward of the Teamsters Local Union 1150. I am submitting testimony in support of HB 5653, An Act Concerning Chemicals of High Concern for Children.

We support the language of HB 5653 because we believe that it is a way to begin the process of identifying chemicals that affect our children's health. While we accept the fact that certain harsh chemicals may be needed in the manufacture of certain products, such as those that some of our members are responsible for manufacturing, we also recognize that harmful chemicals have no place in the manufacture of children's products because their daily use exposes developing minds and bodies directly to those chemicals which have been determined to affect that development.

If toxic chemical exposure can be directly attributed to increasing numbers of cancers, asthma, behavior disorders, and other chronic disease, then decreased exposure to toxins, could subsequently lead to declining disease rates, and ultimately to health care cost savings. We recognize that it is unlikely that the federal reform process of the Toxic Substances Control Act will yield results, so it is imperative to begin the process of determining which new and existing chemicals are safe and do not endanger public health or the environment at the state level.

As workers who are exposed to numerous and dangerous chemicals on a daily basis, it is refreshing to know that there is potential for a systematic yet multi-faceted approach that will have no fiscal impact on this state even as it focuses on the implementation of all aspects of this law. HB 5653 is a large step in the right direction and we urge you to support it.

Thank you,

Joseph Grabinski, Chief EH&S Steward, Teamsters Local Union 1150

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