

Testimony of Tom Swan

Executive Director of Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

In Support of HB 5653 AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN TO CHILDREN

Good afternoon Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and other members of the Children's 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 introducing *HB 5653 AAC Chemicals of High Concern to Children*. As a parent of a near 4 year old daughter and on behalf of all of our members, I urge passage of this legislation this session for all the children of Connecticut.

We all know that chemicals are brought to market and used in products that have never been tested for safety. There is growing consumer awareness that exposure to toxic chemicals from products we use every day is linked to the rise in many serious diseases and there is growing demand to take action! Chemicals that cause cancer, neurological disorders, impaired brain development and hormone disruption have no place in products used for kids.

We all know how industry lobbyists argue that just because these chemicals are present in products, and get into a developing baby, breast milk and young children, doesn't mean they cause disease and they spend millions fighting the public's right to know. Whether it is the Koch brothers and other petrochemical companies denying climate change is being driven by human activity or the tobacco companies denying that cigarettes are addictive, we see through the similar playbook used here by the chemical industry and their minions—deny, deflect, and mischaracterize.

You, as our elected officials and members of the Children's Committee, should see through this and act on behalf of children. This bill is simply providing information so that we can all take precautions when there is any evidence of harm. The evidence of harm is clear. Almost daily we see new research reports linking exposure to toxic chemicals in common consumer products linked to diseases and a developing baby and young children are the most vulnerable.

I trust that you will do what is right for Connecticut's children and make sure that this bill gets passed into law this session.