

I will not be testifying in person but want to submit the following on behalf of the Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans...

TESTIMONY OF WIN HEIMER

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

BEFORE

THE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FEBRUARY 5, 2015

SENATOR BARTOLOMEO, REPRESENTATIVE URBAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MY NAME IS WIN HEIMER AND I AM VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS. WE ARE THE STATE AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS, AND SERVE OVER 50,000 LABOR RETIREE MEMBERS AS WELL AS OTHERS WHO JOIN THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE.

WE URGE YOUR SUPPORT AND PASSAGE OF HB5653, AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN FOR CHILDREN. AS YOU KNOW, THIS BILL REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO IDENTIFY TOXIC CHEMICALS IN PRODUCTS AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS EVERY TWO YEARS TO THE LEGISLATURE ON WAYS TO REDUCE EXPOSURE AND ESPECIALLY TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

WE VOICE CONCERN ABOUT THE HEALTH OF THE NEXT GENERATION. WE ARE PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS WHO CARE DEEPLY.

SCIENCE HAS WEIGHED IN ON THIS MATTER. A REPORT ISSUED BY THE SAFER CHEMICALS HEALTHY FAMILIES COALITION PRESENTS PEER-REVIEWED SCIENCE. IT CONCLUDES THAT AMONG OTHER FACTORS THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EXPOSURE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMICALS AND CHRONIC DISEASES.

THE FINDINGS ARE OF CONCERN TO US SINCE YOUNG CHILDREN CAN BE PARTICULARLY AFFECTED RESULTING IN GREATER LIKLIHOOD OF DEVELOPING ASTHMA, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND OTHER CONDITIONS HARMFUL TO HUMAN HEALTH.

HB5653 WILL ULTIMATELY RESULT IN A CLEANER, HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. WE URGE ITS PASSGE.