

Dear Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, and Members of the Committee on Children,

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better; it's not." -The Lorax, Dr. Suess

As the mother of three children and a health care provider, I support HB 6897, which serves to protect our children, and for that matter anyone who utilizes athletic fields, parks, and other public areas, from toxic chemicals.

The grass many parents sit on when they watch their children play various sports is potentially covered in chemicals. I shudder to think about all the times in the last 20 years that I have taken our children to the park and let them play and picnic in the grass. I didn't think about resting my hands on the grass and then eating something or the fact that our skin absorbs everything we touch. I didn't question whether it was safe for my children to roll down a grassy hill or sit on a public lawn and watch fireworks.

A current law, which prohibits the application of toxic pesticides on school grounds from daycare through grade 8, only serves to make me wonder: **ARE CHILDREN FROM THE AGES OF 14-18 AS WELL AS ADULTS WHO UTILIZE ATHLETIC FIELDS, STATE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS IMMUNE TO THESE TOXIC CHEMICALS IN A WAY THAT BABIES THROUGH 8TH GRADERS ARE NOT?**

Last June, a formulation containing glyphosate was applied to my town's high school grounds, to kill the grass on two large fields, making the renovation of the stadium "easier." It has exposed students, neighbors and the surrounding environment to toxic chemicals that penetrated the air, soil, and water. This involuntarily exposure to toxic chemicals may take 20-30 years to affect our bodies. Below is a link to an article that discusses safety testing. It describes how safety testing is flawed, because it only tests the one ingredient. i.e glyphosate, but when that ingredient is mixed with adjuvants, which are classified as "inert" the mixture can be up to 1000 times stronger. (And to my knowledge, that mixture is not tested for safety.)

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/weed-whacking-herbicide-p/>
Beyond Pesticides' extensive documentation of past research links glyphosate to increased cancer risk, neurotoxicity and birth defects, as well as eye, skin and respiratory irritation, lung congestion, increased breathing rate, and damage to the pancreas, kidney and testes.
A 2012 study published in the journal Archives of Toxicology showed Roundup is toxic to human DNA even when diluted to concentrations 450-fold lower than used in agricultural applications.

The link below lists numerous studies on the dangers of glyphosate (the "active" ingredient in Roundup.)

<http://www.gmo-evidence.com/location/roundup-evidence/>

By protecting the public's health and moving this bill forward, you will protect children, parents, and animals from involuntary exposure to the detrimental effects of toxic chemicals. Most of the opponents of this bill do NOT have our children's best interests at heart; they are here to serve industry and the economy. In my opinion, no amount of economic gain or corporate profit is

worth it, if a loved one is diagnosed with a life threatening disease, developed as a result of exposure to toxic chemicals. Thank you for all you are doing to protect the citizens of Connecticut.

Elizabeth Beisel