



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE PHILIP MILLER
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VICE CHAIR
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

February 5, 2015

H.B. No. 5653 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN FOR CHILDREN

This is a good bill and it ought to pass. This bill would give our state Department of Public Health (DPH) some oversight of just what we are exposed to in our modern world and why we should take note, if necessary. They would collect and archive studies which suggest chemicals of concern, and it would give the agency a platform from which to comment and suggest changes to industries which may have elements, ingredients, or features which are of public health concern. Our Connecticut Health districts, nearly two dozen multi municipality full time entities, and dozens more part time health districts, are led by Directors who are either medical doctors or Masters in Public Health certified, or both. Our health districts, part of a collective nearly hundred year tradition, favor this bill because it would provide oversight given to those who know something about public health and what is in our best interests.

One would assume that our Federal agencies like the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would already be providing adequate oversight. It has long been noted that there is a constant revolving door between appointed agency heads and high placed operatives of the very industries to be supervised. The industries submit their own studies, which may lack objectivity. This is why providing necessary oversight has fallen, or risen, to individual states and their professional agencies.

These industries should be proud of their products, welcoming government oversight to keep everything in sunlight, but in practice, they typically have their lobbyists fight our efforts. They'd rather have us in the dark. They'd suggest that to be notified of a potential problem would be a scarlet letter. They'll tell you that our concerns are overstated. These industries, which include carpet and rug

manufacturers, cleaning products makers, the pesticide industry, and even toy makers, will suggest that our potential oversight is bad for business. Some will tell their legislators to oppose this common sense legislation, that they'd just as soon go elsewhere, where little if any oversight is provided, under the guise of not having government impede business. They'll tell you that your own constituents who work in their industry could lose their jobs.

Please don't fall for this. The professionals who favor this bill wouldn't raise alarm or even make suggestions, unless necessary.

We know that modern life exposes us to chemicals in combinations and concentrations not found in nature, and that some can harm us:

Please empower this appropriate oversight. Stand up to those who are paid to try to keep us in the dark. Support this worthy legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Miller".

Philip Miller
State Representative