

TO : Senator Ted Kennedy, Senator Craig Miner, Representative Mike Demicco  
and members of the Environment Committee  
From: Carolyn Wysocki President ECHO (Ecological Health Organization Inc.)  
RE: SUPPORT OF SB 104 -AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF RESIDENTIAL  
AUTOMATIC PESTICIDE MISTING SYSTEMS.  
Date: February 26, 2018

In January 1992, 26 years ago, ECHO was formed as a statewide nonprofit, advocacy, support, education and referral organization for people with Multiple Chemical Syndrome (MCS) and for others who care about its prevention. We are one of the first organizations in Connecticut linking environmental issues and public health and our MCS members are living proof of those linkages.

As you may know, MCS is caused by repeated low level exposures to toxic chemicals, or it can be caused by a single exposure to one chemical. It is a chronic condition usually involving the central nervous system and other organ systems of the body. Symptoms of MCS include chronic fatigue, muscle and joint pain, rashes, asthma, short-term memory loss and lack of concentration, digestive and neurological problems. Several of our members report severe reactions to chemicals found in pesticides and herbicides. These reactions include asthma attacks, skin rashes, headaches, sore throat, bronchitis chronic sinusitis, and what we call "brain fog".

Due to severe reactions to pesticides, most of our members are on the pesticide notification list. According to Connecticut law, pesticide applicators are required to notify them in advance of any lawn applications and also put a sign on their lawn. They must avoid pesticides in order to insure that they do not become ill and have adverse health reactions as those noted above.

One of our members discovered that a pesticide application had been made to her property in error, by a pesticide applicator who was at the wrong address. She had an immediate adverse reaction. Her eyes and skin were burning, she experienced a sore throat and become disoriented and extremely fatigued. She continued to experience these adverse health effects and was not able to open her windows for the entire summer season after this reckless application of poisons to her property. Literature on the subject noted that it could be 2 years or more before all of the herbicides dissipated from her property.

Using a Misters puts people with MCS, other adults and particularly children at risk to unanticipated chemical exposures even greater than the example above. For the safety and health of our children lets continue to prevent and protect them and our citizens from the adverse health effect of uncontrollable, careless timing spraying of pesticides by passing HB 104.

Sincerely

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