

PA10-164

HB5126

Environment	327-328, 331-332, 358-359, 389, 391, 405-407, 410-415, 423-457, 489-501, 506-511, 518-519, 523-538, 541-552, 558-561, 637, 639-640, 662-	160
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**H – 1079**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2010**

**VOL.53  
PART 7  
1870– 2219**

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 28, 2010

Motion is on adoption of House Amendment "A". Will you remark? Will you remark on House Amendment "A"?

The Chamber stand at ease for a moment.

(Chamber at ease.)

The Chamber will come back to order. The Chair recognizes Representative Merrill.

REP. MERRILL: (54th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would make a motion that we pass this item temporarily.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Motion is to pass temporarily. Without objection, the  
item is passed temporarily.

Mr. Clerk, please call Calendar 127.

THE CLERK:

On Page 31, Calendar 127, Substitute for House Bill  
Number 5126 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS  
INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT. Favorable  
Report of the Committee on Appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

The Chair recognizes the Chairman of the Environment  
Committee, Representative Roy.

REP. ROY: (119th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the  
Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the Bill.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Motion is on acceptance and passage. Will you remark, sir?

REP. ROY: (119th)

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we're doing with this is to establish a chemical institute at UConn Health Center and it's to work with businesses, state agencies, nonprofit organizations, community groups, to help us understand what is out there, what chemicals are out there and what possible alternatives are available.

I'm going to move passage, but before that, Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an Amendment, LCO 4313. I ask that it be called and I be allowed to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Mr. Clerk, please call LCO 4313 designated House Amendment "A".

THE CLERK:

LBO Number 4313, House "A" offered by Representative Roy.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Representative Roy, do you care to summarize?

REP. ROY: (119th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what this does is, it removes Lines 94 and 95 in their entirety. We do

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not need them. The statutes already cover the issue of lobbying by quasi-public agencies.

I move adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Motion is on adoption. Will you remark? Will you remark on House "A"? Representative Chapin.

REP. CHAPIN: (67th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you a question to the proponent, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Proceed.

REP. CHAPIN: (67th) &

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding based on what was just stated, that the purposes of those lines will more or less still be in tact even after we remove them because it's addressed elsewhere in the statute. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Representative Roy.

REP. ROY: (119th)

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, that is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Representative Chapin.

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REP. CHAPIN: (67th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I believe it's Section 1-101(bb), which talks about lobbyists for quasi-public agencies and state agencies.

So it's the gentleman's understanding that this new institute, that this Bill contemplates creation of, would fall under the quasi-public agency or state agency definition? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Representative Roy.

REP. ROY: (119th)

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, that is the proper cite.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Representative Chapin.

REP. CHAPIN: (67th)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the gentleman for his answer and encourage my colleagues to support the Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Very good. Will you remark on House Amendment "A"? Will you remark further? If not, I'll try your minds.

All those in favor of the Amendment signify by saying Aye.

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REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Those opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. The Amendment is adopted.

Will you remark on the Bill as amended? Will you remark? If not, staff and guests to the well of the House. Members take their seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll Call.

Members to the Chamber.

The House is voting by Roll Call. Members to the Chamber, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Have all Members voted? Have all Members voted? Please check the machine to make sure your vote is properly recorded.

If all Members have voted, the machine will be locked. Mr. Clerk, please take the tally and announce it when you're ready.

THE CLERK:

House Bill Number 5126 as amended by House "A".

Total Number Voting 141

Necessary for Passage 71

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Those voting Yea	140
Those voting Nay	1
Those absent and not voting	10

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

The Bill as amended passes.

The Chair recognizes Representative Olson.

REP. OLSON: (46th)

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

Good afternoon.

REP. OLSON: (46th)

Mr. Speaker, I move for immediate transmittal of all items acted upon, which need further action in the Senate.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

The motion is on immediate transmittal. Hearing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk, please call Calendar 136.

THE CLERK:

On Page 32, Calendar 136, Substitute for House Bill Number 5457 AN ACT CONCERNING PENALTIES FOR HARM TO VULNERABLE USERS OF A PUBLIC WAY. Favorable Report of the Committee on Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER O'ROURKE:

**S - 610**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2010**

**VOL. 53  
PART 13  
3842 - 4128**

cd  
SENATE

558  
May 5, 2010

Calendar page 11, Calendar 488, House Bill 5297,  
move to place the item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Calendar page 11, Calendar 490, House Bill 5425,  
move to place the item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Calendar page 12, Calendar 496, House Bill 5497,  
move to place the item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Calendar page 13, Calendar 509, House Bill 5126,  
move to place the item on the consent calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

cd  
SENATE

571  
May 5, 2010

Calendar page 10, Calendar 461, House Bill 5207;  
Calendar 483, House Bill 5244.

Calendar 484, on page 11, House Bill 5383; Calendar  
487, House Bill 5220; Calendar 488, House Bill 5297;  
Calendar 490, 5425 -- House; Calendar 496, House Bill  
5497; Calendar 509, House Bill 5126.

Calendar page 14, Calendar 511, House Bill 5527;  
Calendar 514, House Bill 5426; Calendar 516, House Bill  
5393.

Calendar page 15, Calendar 520, House Bill 5336;  
Calendar 521, House Bill 5424; Calendar 523, House Bill  
5223; Calendar 525, House Bill 5255.

Calendar page 16, Calendar 531, House Bill 5004.

Calendar page 17, Calendar 533, House Bill 5436;  
Calendar 540, House Bill 5494; Calendar 543, House Bill  
5399.

Calendar page 18, Calendar 544, House Bill 5434;  
Calendar 547, House Bill 5196; Calendar 548, House Bill  
5533; Calendar 549, House Bill 5387; Calendar 550, House  
Bill 5471; Calendar 551, House Bill 5413; Calendar 552,  
House Bill 5163; Calendar 553, House Bill 5159.

Calendar page 19, Calendar 554, House Bill 5164.

cd  
SENATE

572  
May 5, 2010

Calendar page 20, Calendar 556, House Bill 5498;  
Calendar 557, House Bill 5270; 559, House Bill 5407; 562,  
House Bill 5253; and House Bill -- Calendar 563, House  
Bill 5340; Calendar 567, House Bill 5371; and Calendar  
573, House Bill 5371.

Mr. President, I believe that completes the items

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, could you please give me on Calendar 567,  
do you have 5516, sir?

THE CLERK:

What -- what calendar?

THE CHAIR:

567 on page 22.

THE CLERK:

It's 5516.

THE CHAIR:

Yes, sir. Okay.

Machine's open.

THE CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the  
Senate on the consent calendar. Will all Senators please  
return to the chamber. Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate on the  
consent calendar. Will all Senators please return to the chamber.

cd  
SENATE

573  
May 5, 2010

THE CHAIR:

Have all Senators voted? Please check your vote. The machine will be locked. The Clerk will call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Motion is on adoption of Consent  
Calendar Number 2.

Total number voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 2 passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, Mr. President.

Mr. President -- Mr. President, before moving to adjourn, I would like to ensure the entire chamber will wish Laura Stefon, Senator McDonald's aide, my former intern, a happy birthday.

And with that -- and with that, Mr. President, I would move the Senate stand adjourn

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT  
PART 2  
307 – 658**

**2010**

REP. CHAPIN: Either way is good as long as it gets done?

LARRY MARSICANO: Like I said, yeah, we're looking for any measures at this point. Any positive movement forward. I'm not sure if one is better than the other.

REP. CHAPIN: Okay. Thank you very much, and thanks for coming up today, Larry.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any other questions or comments from members of the Committee? Seeing none, Mr. Marsicano, thank you very much. One thing I forgot to mention, and the regulars know, the first hour is devoted to public officials. If we still have public officials left on the list at that hour, we then alternate between the public and public officials until the officials are out of here. Next, Representative Lonnie Reed.

REP. REED: Good morning. I promise I'll get out of here the minute I -- (laughter). Good morning, Chairman Roy, Chairman Meyer, and marvelous members. Vice Chairman Hurlburt, I see.

HB 5130  
SB 206

My name is Lonnie Reed, the State Representative from the 102nd District in Branford, and I am testifying in support of two bills, the first one being H.B. 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at UCONN Health Center.

As we all know, the green chemistry movement is growing, and major efforts are under way here in the United States and abroad to restrict or eliminate the use of suspect chemicals in all kinds of products, replacing them with safe alternatives. I am convinced

that creating a Chemical Innovations Institute at the UCONN Health Center is an idea whose time has come. The Institute would be proactive rather than reactive, enabling scientists, health professionals, industry representatives and regulators to work together in an ongoing effort to anticipate chemical policy initiatives from the European Union and a growing number of states, including California, Washington state, Michigan, Minnesota and Maine, just to name a few.

The Institute would help companies track regulatory trends and make sense of new requirements. It could assist in training, occupational health and safety in environmental staff, and the dissemination of best practices for chemical management. Connecticut companies must develop programs to respond to these new market requirements, and a Chemical Innovations Institute could be a very attractive new resource for protecting the jobs and the health of Connecticut residents and those around the world, quite frankly.

As a business person myself who works constantly to anticipate and respond to trends, I know it is suicidal to just sit back and watch and not take action as markets close their doors to your products. A Chemical Innovations Institute could be good for the health of consumers, good for the fiscal health of manufacturers and for the thousands of people who work for them.

I am also speaking today in favor of H.B. 5130, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS. Again, parents the world over are growing more militant when it comes to the composition of toys, food containers, jewelry

REP. REED: Well, I think, as you know, Representative Bye, because you're very, very involved in these kinds of issues as well, that there are already these interstate agreements and actually even international lists that are being developed that are showing you which chemicals are really on the hit list and are coming next. I mean, when you sit and talk with parents and moms and they use words like phthalates and, you know, I mean, it's the whole language that's changed.

People who are very, very concerned parents really understand what these things are. So I'm really convinced that by talking about this and getting the industry involved, I know a lot of people are going to speak about this in a public health way, and I obviously share those feelings, but I thought as a business person I could also share the perspective that I find it's really bad business to not look at where life is going and where regulations are going and where markets are going. And to ignore it and hope it all goes away, or put your money into expensive lobbyists to try to keep the inevitable from happening, I don't think that's good business.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any other questions or comments from members of the committee?  
Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning, Lonnie.

REP. REED: Good morning, Mister Mentor.

REP. DAVIS: You do outstanding work. You must have a very good teacher. In any case, you know, over the years, with your support and the support of many members of the Committee,

we've looked at bills that seek to eliminate certain chemicals in products, and I'm looking at the two bills you're supporting here.

The Chemical Innovations Institute, more or less tracking some of these products and so on, do you have any idea if this institute could also work on anticipating some of the substitutes to these products and what they may or may not do? I'm finding that we find a product that's toxic, we eliminate it or get it eliminated or pass legislation that prevents it from being in our toys or some of the other product, and then we find out its substitute is just as toxic. So what I'm looking to ask for is, is this institute possibly able to work on substitutes and test things that might be safe rather than just simply substitutes?

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REP. REED: Absolutely. I think that's one of the reasons we really need this. And it actually would be based on a model of the Toxic Use Reduction Institute in Massachusetts. So there are these organizations that are beginning to be put together, using the best brains and also bringing the industry in as well, and designing phase-outs that don't do it on an ad hoc way that suddenly leaves us out there perhaps choosing substitutes that aren't ready for prime time, but really, really examining the whole thing in a big-picture way.

REP. DAVIS: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any other questions or comments from members of the Committee? Seeing none, thank you very much, Lonnie.

REP. REED: Thank you very much.

SENATOR MEYER: Good.

KEITH AINSWORTH: Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any other questions or comments from members of the Committee? Seeing none, Keith, thank you very much. Dr. Mark Mitchell followed by Ron Faanes.

MARK MITCHELL: Good morning, Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Committee. In my testimony I put afternoon, because I never talk to you this early. My name is Dr. Mark Mitchell and I'm president of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, and I'm here to testify in favor of H.B. 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products, and H.B. 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute, and I'd also like to comment on H.B. 5121, An Act Concerning Revisions of the Environmental Justice Community Statute.

As you know, environmental justice refers to the fact that environmental hazards are disproportionately suffered by low-income communities and communities of color. Although with chemical policy, all communities are affected, we oftentimes find that this is still the case. These bills call for policies to prevent harm before damage is done and to require that businesses and governments choose the safest alternatives in a comprehensive fashion rather than a chemical-by-chemical approach.

The Child Safe Products Act, H.B. 5130, seeks to pinpoint toxic chemicals of greatest concern in children's products and works to phase out these chemicals so it can protect the health of our children. The other bill, 5126, seeks to establish an institute to work

with Connecticut business to find safer substitutes. Both these bills are budget neutral.

We've been meeting with the University of Connecticut businesses and with the Connecticut Business and Industry Association to try to make sure that the chemical innovations institute is of substantial benefit to Connecticut manufacturers in maintaining competitiveness and creating new green jobs.

The results of current governmental policies is that toxic substances come into our bodies, often without our knowledge or consent. Approximately 80,000 chemicals are licensed for use in commerce today. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that fewer than 10 percent of the industrial chemicals produced in the largest quantities -- that's over a million pounds per year -- have undergone even a limited set of tests to assess the health effects. No premarket safety testing or approval has been required under any federal law for chemicals in cosmetics, toys, clothing, carpets or construction materials, to name just a few obvious sources of chemical exposure in everyday life.

These dangerous products end up all too often buried in landfills, or in Connecticut, burned in incinerators in low-income communities and communities of color. These communities pay a very high cost in terms of increased levels of asthma, cancer, diabetes and so forth as a result of exposure to the toxins that are in these products.

I'd also like to say a few words regarding An Act Concerning Revisions to the Environmental

HB 5121

And again, back to that 2005 document from the University of Connecticut saving \$20 million worth of healthcare costs by utilizing this fuel not only in our vehicles, but in our heating oil. God knows Connecticut is one of the biggest uses of heating oil in the world, I believe. I'm not sure. We use an awful lot of it. Using bio in there would reduce a lot of stuff that's coming out from the chimneys, sulfur and carbon -- all kinds of stuff. So I applaud you for your efforts and I thank you for testifying. Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any other questions or comments from members of the Committee? Seeing none, thank you very much, Joel.

JOEL RINEBOLD: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Ann Hulick followed by Paul Hoar.

ANN HULICK: Good afternoon. Good afternoon, Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses Association, the professional organization for over 52,000 registered nurses in the State of Connecticut.

CNA strongly supports two bills today, House Bill 5130, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS, and House Bill 5126, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT. First, House Bill 5130 builds upon Connecticut successes in phasing out toxic chemicals such as lead and Bisphenol-A from children's products. While Connecticut now has the strongest stand on Bisphenol-A in the country, we will not be successful in reducing exposure to toxic chemicals by phasing them out one

toxic chemicals. The Connecticut Nurses Association strongly supports this bill.

In addition, House Bill 5126 is a win-win for Connecticut citizens and Connecticut industry. The chemical innovations institute proposed in this bill would provide much needed support to state businesses and industry by serving as a one-stop shopping resource to honor businesses with research and technical information on safer alternatives. It will also help protect public health by assisting industries, moving to safer alternatives, and thereby reducing costs of each individual business doing it on their own. Again, Connecticut Nurses Association strongly House Bill 5126 and 5130, both for reasons of improving public health and improving economic industry in the State of Connecticut.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any questions or comments from members of the Committee?

Seeing none, Ann, thank you very much.

Paul Hoar followed by Kachina Walsh-Weaver.

PAUL HOAR: Good morning, sir. How are you today? And it's Paul Hoar, H-o-a-r. Let's not be bashful. Representative Hurlburt and members of this committee, I'd like to make these comments in support of Senate Bill 118.

My name is Paul Hoar. I'm president of AgriFuels LLC, a biodiesel quality consulting company located in Glastonbury, Connecticut. AgriFuels assists biodiesel producers, marketers and laboratories nationally to achieve the quality BQ 9000 certification endorsed by the National Biodiesel Board and

there for it, but that's probably one of the best incentives to build affording housing that I've seen, and quite often, that would not entail going into environmentally sensitive areas.

But again, I thank you for your testimony and I'm glad you're supporting this bill.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments from members of the Committee?

Seeing none, Kachina, thank you. Nice job.

KACHINA WALSH-WEAVER: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Caroline Sterns followed by Elizabeth Gara.

Before you start, Caroline, for those of you who are not familiar with our process here, you're seeing committee members coming and going. There are several hearings going on, different committees. Members of this committee are also members of some of the other committees, so they're trying to keep abreast of what's going on in two different rooms. So do not take it as they're not interested in what you have to say, but that they're trying to do the job as best they can. Thank you.

CAROLINE STERNS: Good afternoon, members of the Committee. My name is Caroline Sterns and I'm from Mansfield, Connecticut. My daughter walked through the door. Her face was dark and foreboding. She said, "Mom, I have cancer." It's my hope that one day in

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HB 5130

Connecticut, there will be a time when mothers never have to live that moment. They'll never have to see that look on the face of a family member. I wish for mothers to never have to sit through long, grueling chemo treatments for a son or a daughter.

It was October 2008 when my daughter at then age 28 came home with that frightening news. It was not long after that the test revealed she was harboring Stage IV Hodgkin's lymphoma cancer, which is linked with chemicals. After 12 rounds of chemotherapy from the Farmington UCONN Medical Center, I'm ecstatic to say my daughter is cancer free at this time. It has impacted all our lives. Loss of work time, extreme medical bills, compromising her future health. There's a one, a five, a ten-year plan for control, and watching followed by a lifetime plan.

Childhood and youth should be protected from the onslaught of everyday chemicals. Children don't read labels. Children don't volunteer to absorb these substances. Our jobs as adults, as parents, as leaders and as government is to protect the innocent. Let us work to give them back their freedom of knowing their environment at home, at school and in our communities is safe. If we act today, if we bear to be so bold as to enact protected legislation, then the day will come when mothers won't hear, "Mom, I have cancer."

REP. ROY: Thank you. Very poignant testimony, and I'm glad that your daughter is doing well at this time. You'll have our prayers as she continues to do so. Any comments or questions from members of the committee? Representative Urban.

REP. URBAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you

very much for your testimony. I would merely add to this that it is time for the state to move forward on this, because the federal government, looking at TSCA, which is supposed to be protecting our children, and we know that there are 82,000 chemicals that have been introduced, and of those 82,000, five have actually been banned. So it's time for our state to move up to protect our children. And I, too, am very happy that your daughter is now cancer free, but I think that we forget some of the statistics that are out there, like a child by the age of five has ingested seven pounds of herbicides, pesticides, artificial colors and artificial flavors. And the impact, the long-term impact can be frightening.

CAROLINE STERNS: And it's pesticides that seem to be the finger for Hodgkin's lymphoma, which is prevalent mostly in young people 18 to 30.

REP. URBAN: You're absolutely right.

CAROLINE STERNS: They're impacting our work force.

REP. URBAN: And of course, as I say innumerable times, if we would look at the long-term costs when we're discussing the effect of some of these chemicals, it would just become obvious that this is something that we need to move on. So thank you so much for your testimony. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any other questions or comments? Seeing none, thank you very much, Caroline.

CAROLINE STERNS: Thank you for letting me support Bill 5126 and 5130 today.

REP. ROY: Elizabeth Gara followed by Rhonda

Any other questions or comments?

Seeing none, thank you, Elizabeth.

Rhonda Sherwood followed by Ann Berman.

RHONDA SHERWOOD: Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and the members of the Environmental Committee, thank you for allowing me to speak.

My name is Rhonda Sherwood. I live in Darien, Connecticut, and I'm here because I strongly support House Bill 5126, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE, and House Bill 5130, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS.

I'm a mother of three children. I am also the Vice-Chairman of the Mount Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center in New York, working under Dr. Phillip Landrigan, who is a pediatrician and a Chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is also the leading consultant physician to the World Health Organization, teaching them about the relationship between environmental toxins and human health, and he is also the physician who back in the 1970s did the research that resulted in lead being removed from gasoline and paint.

Both bills are of monumental importance to me, because through my work at Mount Sinai, I've learned that there is peer-reviewed research that suggests there's a link between exposure to environmental toxins and human health, especially as it relates to unborn fetuses and young children. If I could quote from Dr. Landrigan in an article that appeared in the New York Times last week entitled "Do Toxins Cause Autism," he said, "The crux of

this is brain development. If babies are exposed in the womb or shortly after birth to chemicals that interfere with brain development, the consequences last a lifetime."

I applaud you for banning BPA last year, and I like House Bill 5126 because what it does is it protects pregnant women and men of child-rearing age from toxic chemicals, and it provides cutting-edge information in how they can protect themselves when they're in child-bearing years, be it before and beyond. And I'm hoping that Mount Sinai could provide some information to aid the workers in Connecticut to protect their children and themselves.

And of course, I like the house bill that protects children from toxins that are in products intended for children. What is great is that these bills avoid having to pass the bill at a time as information about new chemicals emerge. And the reason I put these products up here is because just at the end of January, a researcher at Mount Sinai that works under Dr. Landrigan, her name is Stephanie Engel, published a peer-reviewed article that said that phthalates and other hormone-disrupting chemicals -- the phthalates are in the products I'm showing here, ones that people use everyday, are exhibiting the tendency to cause children to get ADHD and autism. So to the extent that we can protect our children, and even pregnant moms from using products with safer alternatives that are cost effective, I think that would be great information that we could share to others.

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I also just want to quickly say that I have been -- I put together a fund raiser for

Dr. Landrigan to raise research to try and identify the toxins suspected of causing harm in children. We've got 90 women from Connecticut, mainly -- and some from New York and Westchester, who are on the same page as I am in terms of hoping that we'll be able to do a better job legislatively in protecting our kids. Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you. I was under the impression that in 2008, President Bush signed a bill in Washington to ban phthalates. Do you know?

RHONDA SHERWOOD: It's a bill that protects -- it bans phthalates in children's products, but we believe that the main way phthalates are exposed to unborn children and young children is through repeated use of many products during the day. Anything that's got a synthetic fragrance, if you look at the back of this label, you will not see the word phthalate, but the FDA right now allows the word "fragrance" to be a catchall phrase that indicates the presence of many, many chemicals, including phthalates.

And we think it's because -- let's say a pregnant mother shampoos her hair, uses deodorant, might use a body lotion, has a Glade Plug-In in several rooms in her house and then drives her brand new car, which is off gas and PVC, which is a different kind of phthalate actually not related to Dr. Engel's study, but equally disconcerting, that's what's not been covered. And while a child mouthing a phthalate-laden toy is of concern, Dr. Landrigan's real concern is exposure to the unborn fetus as the brain is developing.

REP. ROY: Thank you. I wasn't aware that that was happening. I was pleased when the phthalate bill was signed, and we still have some more

work in that area.

Thank you.

Any other questions?

Representative Wood.

REP. WOOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Rhonda, for coming up.

Rhonda is a constituent, and I know how long you've worked on this and your heartfelt commitment to this, and you explained some things that I was unclear of, so I really appreciate you coming up. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

REP. ROY: Any other questions or comments from members of the Committee?

Seeing none, thank you very much.

Ann Berman followed by Tim Hollister.

ANN BERMAN: Hello. My name is Ann Berman, and I'm from Milford and I am a member of the Environmental Concern Coalition, and I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak in support for bill H.B. 5130 and 5126.

In my day, we fortunately did not have all these plastic toys and plastic nursing bottles to worry about. We did have fewer toys to chew and play with, but they must have been reasonably nontoxic, as our generations did not have these high numbers of asthma, learning disabilities and cancers. It has been said that the present generation of children will not enjoy the same longevity as my generation because of all the toxic chemicals they've been exposed to from birth,

including in utero to present day.

Many newborns who have been tested show high body burden counts, which are inherited from their mothers, and then only to be exposed to more modern antibacterial soaps, plastics, bottles, toys, medical supplies, cleaning supplies, furniture, rugs and you name it. What a welcome we are giving our newborns into the 21st century with the highest, most sophisticated medical practices in medicine since man inhabited the earth:

It is time that we are accountable for these toxic substances. It's time to have a warehouse of all these toxic chemicals that are in too many products, too many to list, that can be accessed by doctors, parents, retailers, whoever needs to know. It is time to acknowledge that most people believe that if it's on the market, it has been approved by the government and that it is safe. The new book called "Slow Death by Rubber Duck: The Secret Danger of Everyday Things" tells much of the story, and the title tells it all.

I recently exhibited with NOFA, the ECCs Freedom Lawn initiative on organic lawn care in the Hartford Flower Show, and experienced especially these youngsters and young people, and yes, landscapers, who are seeking out my bumper sticker that said, "Pesticides kill. Are you risking your child, pet for the perfect lawn?" As they were picking it up, they said, "This tells it all." The young people are getting it, and they will be on our tails if these bills are not passed.

Please, it's time. It's time to recognize. This is a loud wake-up call to all those chemical companies, pharmaceutical manufacturers that produce products that they

know contain harmful substances that can leach out into the environment, into the human body and animals, that they are to be held accountable and responsible for any ill effects. It's time to have a special place, that is a chemical innovations institute, to keep us informed. Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Thank you, Ann. Thank you always for your participation up here. I'm impressed. I'm sure you'll be coming up here long after I'm gone.

Representative Lambert.

REP. LAMBERT: Thank you, Ann. Thank you for all you do. You're an inspiration to everyone in Milford, because you've already started all these environmentally concerned citizens. But I want to just touch on one thing in your report about the pesticides and the perfect lawn. As I've spoken to you before, I've had a friend of mine who had the perfect lawn, and her child became very sick, and I think it's time for people like you to enlighten the public that that perfect lawn is at cost, and if it's not your child, there's also animals and there's other things that have happened.

So I just want to thank you again for all you do in enlightening us. I've learned so much from you. Thank you.

ANN BERMAN: Thank you, Barbara, because I hope that you'll be with us for next year, because we need your help. You're great. Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Anyone else care to comment? Any questions?  
Seeing none, Ann, thank you.

adding a layer?

TIM HOLLISTER: Certainly, and it starts with I just don't know what it means, because it has some very broad language that is non defined.

REP. BYE: Right. So the statement of purpose of this bill says to discontinue the practice of having affordable housing development take precedence of the protection of the environment and natural resources. Your testimony is that, in fact, it doesn't take precedence over those -- over either the environment or natural resources currently.

TIM HOLLISTER: That's correct.

REP. BYE: Okay. Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments?

Seeing none, thank you very much, sir.

Andrea Kiener followed by Nory Oakes.

ANDREA KIENER: Mr. Chairman and Committee, my name is Rabbi Andrea Cohen Kiener. I'm glad to be here today. I feel like I'm part of a process where legislation is kind of catching up to the toxic exposures that have been under way for most of my life.

I'm going to speak to 5126 today and 5130. These are really important bills. They are infrastructure bills that set us in a good direction. The documented variety and concentration of toxic exposures that each of us has is truly alarming. But since these exposures are minute and spread out over time, the dread that we should feel, the urgency

that we should work from are absent. Over a lifetime, we have responses to these exposures, which range from infertility and birth defects to asthma, cancers and mood disorders. And no one can draw a straight line and say this shampoo is the cause or this chemical on the rug is the cause, because the exposures are so diffuse that the consequences are somewhat attenuated, but my sense of urgency is very, very real about this.

Many of the chronic diseases mentioned in this regard have lifelong treatment expenses associated with them also. I have one daughter with infertility problems, and I myself am a breast cancer survivor, and I'm in daily treatment for asthma. In many of the products that I choose to buy or need to buy, I'm exposed again and again to fumes of various kinds. I have more than one congregant in my congregation who lives in kind of a bubble environment that you have to take a shower and wash your clothes in scent-free material and take all the personal -- scent-free personal-care products that she provides before you can come into her home, because her immune system has given out from all the toxins.

Industry is not minding the store. Relevant state and federal enforcement laws are spread out over dozens of agencies, and many of the agency mandates are ridiculously inadequate to the task. I would mention here the Toxic Substance Control Act, which Representative Urban mentioned, which addresses five chemicals out of 82,000.

I'm very excited about the proposal for the institute at UCONN to bring best practices to the safest chemical alternatives, bringing them to the market. The institute will use

developing research from state and other forums, interstate and other forums. It will create an important technical and economic resource for UCONN and the state. I think this institute could bridge sort of a culture gap between the business community and health advocates such as myself, because their research and their recommendations could serve businesses who do not wish to poison their customers but who have little or no guidance as to what is truly dangerous in their product line and which alternatives exist.

As for the Child Safe Products Act, this is a logical compliment to the very important institute bill. We need a mechanism to eliminate the materials that we do identify as pernicious.

REP. ROY: Thank you, Andrea.

Any questions or comments from members of the Committee?

Seeing none, thank you.

Nory Oakes followed by Sarah Uhl.

NORY OAKES: Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to address you in this group. I'm here in support of House Bills 5126 and 5130.

My name is Nory Oakes, and I own and operate a small fundraising company in Voluntown, Connecticut, and we provide a way for school groups and churches and nonprofits to raise funds when their members purchase earth-friendly soaps and environmentally-friendly ingredients to make safe cleaning products at home, which is a practice advocated by the Connecticut DEP.

My concern is partly personal. After suffering from severe bipolar disorder for 16 years, in 2002 I was diagnosed with chronic and severe mercury toxicity, which was caused by the fillings in my teeth. Following their removal, I became able to live a normal life, free from psychiatric medications. One common experience for people with mercury toxicity is that they frequently also suffer from multiple chemical sensitivity, MCS. I developed MCS following the purchase and use of a new mattress, which unbeknownst to me at the time contained high levels of toxins, including pesticides, fungicides and formaldehyde.

The EPA has recently found that indoor air pollution is often 100 percent higher than outdoor air pollution due in part to toxic cleaners used in schools and homes. Many scientists and doctors link the dramatic rise in the number of children with asthma, ADHD and autism with the use of common cleaning products, chemical food additives and food coloring. According to the Consumer Protection Safety Commission, 150 of the chemicals in cleaning products have been linked to allergic reactions, birth defects, cancer and mental health disturbances. The irony, of course, is that the cleaner our homes and schools are, the sicker we become.

As a former teacher, I urge you to consider how this impacts Connecticut school children. You have taken the steps to remove these toxic cleaners from the classroom, and I applaud your efforts on that. Market research by our company, however, shows that six out of seven teachers are unaware of the new law banning such products. So obviously, much more education is needed to ensure compliance with that law. Also removing toxins from school buildings is not enough. The chemicals

lurking under the public's kitchen sinks affect children each and every day, and for that reason, I urge you to support Bills 5126 and 5130. Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you very much.

Any questions or comments from members of the Committee?

Seeing none, thank you. Sarah Uhl followed by Pamela Puchalski.

SARAH UHL: Good afternoon, Senator Meyer and Representative Roy and members of the Committee. My name is Sarah Uhl. I am the Environmental Health Coordinator for Clean Water Action, which is an environmental health nonprofit here in Connecticut with about 20,000 members, and I also work to coordinate about 50 other groups in Connecticut that are very concerned about toxic chemical policy related issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bills 5130 and 5126. Clean Water Action sincerely appreciates the Environment Committee's leadership on environmental health issues over the past many years. Connecticut is now nationally recognized for work on a number of chemicals of high concern, and I just wanted to clarify a couple of things about particularly House Bill 5130.

This bill would make Connecticut one of about four states that are moving in a more proactive direction when it comes to toxins in children's products. Maine and Washington have already come out with well-vetted lists of chemicals of concern in these products, and Connecticut, through our participation with

the interstate chemicals clearing house, could borrow from these lists and simply start to move towards phasing out a few chemicals hopefully every year.

It was noted that what if we find out later that one of these chemicals is safe? Well, the list would be a dynamic thing that could be revised over time. Chemicals could be added. Chemicals could be taken off. And I think that the three-year time period in the bill to allow a manufacturer plenty of time to phase out these chemicals is a generous amount of time and an adequate amount of time. They could also ask the Commissioner of Consumer Protection for an exemption. If they didn't have an alternative and if the product they were making was of necessity for children rather than, for example, a novelty item like a cheap child's jewelry product.

I included two URLs in my testimony that link to Maine's chemical of high concern list, and also Washington State's list for children's products. Chlorine has come up a number of times. I don't believe it's on these lists, and if it is, Maine and Washington are going to be narrowing them in the next six months and putting out just very short, you know five or six chemical lists that are actually in children's products and actually should be regulated. So we're not asking the departments to create expansive lists. Rather, the goal is to skip that step and just move towards phasing out some of the worst chemicals based on all of the evidence that is out there.

And then on the institute bill, House Bill 5126, we also strongly support that.  
Thank you.

REP. ROY: Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: Sarah, thank you for your advocacy. As you may have gathered from prior questions I asked about the safe products bill, I do have problems with the structure in the sense that what we're doing here is we're allowing a state agency to decide what's -- not only to decide what is toxic, but to then prohibit that, and so we're giving up very much of a legislative function to an agency, and I wonder if you would be open to revising the structure of this bill so that while DEP might get involved with finding out what is toxic or not toxic, the General Assembly would have the ultimate responsibility after full public hearings.

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SARAH UHL: I certainly think that we'd be supportive of making it more clear that the public has a point of entry into this decision-making process. What we're trying to avoid is the slow process. No offense. The legislature can only take so much action each year, and the legislature could still act. This bill in no way precludes the legislature from phasing out toxic chemicals.

But I think what we're trying to do is give the folks with the expertise who are the toxicologists, who are in the state agencies participating with other states, give them more authority to move forward rather than just continuing to analyze the science and debate it out, if that makes sense. Does that answer your question? But we would certainly be open to other models for moving forward and achieving those results.

SENATOR MEYER: Well, you know, I had legislation last year which I had trouble getting a toxicologist from DEP, and one of the

underlying issues as we try to be practical about prohibition of toxic chemicals is what should be the agency -- the lead agency on it. DEP is really hurting. You know that. They've just taken another big hit through the early retirement program, and I'm not sure that we can restaff DEP this session.

SARAH UHL: That's a very good point, and perhaps --

SENATOR MEYER: So the worst thing you want is to have a law that's not enforceable because you don't have any enforcement staff, and DEP is lacking enforcement staff right now, so we have to look at that as well.

SARAH UHL: It may better rest with the Department of Public Health, but I think we need an agency to be the lead and to consult with the other agencies. Otherwise, I'm afraid it won't really be implemented as you're saying.

SENATOR MEYER: I don't think -- DEP was not on the list of witnesses on this bill today. That's pretty indicative. And neither was Health. So we've got to work on this.

SARAH UHL: It's difficult, yes.

SENATOR MEYER: Because your goal is really good, but how we get there is what we have to address.

SARAH UHL: Okay. I look forward to working with you more on this, Senator.

SENATOR MEYER: And you, too.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Representative Bye.

REP. BYE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Good afternoon, Sarah. Thank you for your work on this bill, and I think I would agree that it's a public health issue, so if I were to pick an agency, I'd probably pick the Department of Public Health. There are a couple of concerns I've been hearing about this bill that I want you to address. One is that there are so many potential lists listed in the bill that it would be very hard for industry to figure out what's coming next. Do you have any suggestions about that?

SARAH UHL: Thanks for that question, Representative Bye. I think that it might make sense to narrow the focus of the bill in terms of the lists, and I think it was also mentioned by one of the other witnesses that it might make sense to clarify the types of chemicals that we're looking for from the hazard perspective as well.

So hopefully, those two clarifications can help provide more clarity there and also make it clear that the state agencies can simply work from what Maine has already published, and I think that that is already sending the industry a pretty clear signal about the hit list, as it was referred to earlier.

REP. BYE: Okay, thank you.

And one other question. You know, having worked on the BPA bill last year, one of the challenges going forward with that policy is trying to identify safe levels, if you will, with some chemicals or items that are pretty ubiquitous. How do you propose that we work on that?

SARAH UHL: Well, I included a URL in my testimony to the State of Maine draft list for

disclosure in children's products, and the Department of Oncology in Maine is going to be putting out levels associated with every one of those chemicals. One of the problems is that some chemicals are hazardous at different amounts, so it's not really appropriate to put in an across-the-board standard for chemicals generally, you know, to say we can have .1 percent. Doesn't really work like that. However, I think through the interstate clearing house, it would be quite easy for our state agencies to designate allowable levels for the few, the handful of chemicals that we're talking about regulating.

REP. BYE: Actually, that answer sort of brings us to why the legislative process can be so messy, because we could end up, if we're dealing with a particular chemical, making a political compromise about a level versus having scientists look at it and say, well, the preponderance of data is that this is safe at X level versus a political process. I think that sort of makes your point about wanting scientists making decisions versus us, though I think we do a great job, but it is an arduous process and expensive process. Thank you very much.

SARAH UHL: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Representative Lambert.

REP. LAMBERT: Thank you, Sarah. Thank you for all you do.

As Representative Bye mentioned last year, we came to quite a few compromises on the BPA. In negotiations, we phased out the fact that we would go many years so that industry would

not be harmed. So in our canned goods, we allowed extra amount of time. And I, too, had some reservations and only that some of the industries came and asked questions and wanted to make sure that if we're being fair to them. And I know you as a fair person, so I know if there's some suggestion, that you always work in conjunction with business.

So one of the things is that fluid list. If it comes up with a list, I know it changes, and I know you're willing to do the news data and change that list. But I guess the biggest concern they have is that, as in any business, they have to do long-term planning. So if they have a toy, for instance, and it's on the market for a long amount of time and all of a sudden this comes up -- I'm so happy to hear you say phase-in, so that we're fair to people, so that when we do put that list in. But the basic thing is we have to protect our children from those chemicals. So as we're willing to work in this direction, and I think the compromise would be perfect if we can do that, we're trying to encompass everybody, but the bottom line is we need to protect the children. Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hi, Sarah. Just along the lines that Representative Lambert was mentioning, very often when we have issues such as this, we get industry coming up and saying you can't do this, you can't do that. Knowing that some of these toxic chemicals might, in fact, cause a tremendous amount of financial problems for the industry, you know -- have you gotten any response from the industry about beginning some sort of a program of kind of policing

their own products, doing any type of experimental testing to make sure that the products they're putting out there don't create problems in the future? I mean, it seems to make sense that if we can sit down with the industries and avoid the problems to begin with, we'd both be better off.

SARAH UHL: Thank you, Representative Davis.

It certainly, from our perspective, we're quite surprised that the large children's products manufacturers haven't taken more of the onus upon themselves to look at these well-vetted lists of hazardous chemicals and simply start to move away from the worst ones, but you know, we've seen cadmium, a toxic metal some scientists believe is worse than lead, is currently found in children's jewelry on store shelves, and it's a perfect example of where there's no regulation federally or in a state for cadmium in certain children's toys, and so the industry is simply using it. So thank you for that question.

REP. DAVIS: Thank you for your answer. I guess that kind of puts it back in our ballpark. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Anyone else have questions or comments?

Sarah, I've got a couple of questions. You heard the speaker for the water company earlier say chlorine is actually essential. Do you know of any alternative to that that would be as equally effective?

SARAH UHL: I'm glad you asked that question, because in my reading of the bill, only consumer products designed for young children

would be regulated by this bill. It references Section 21A-335B of the general statutes, and so I'm not sure if there was a misunderstanding there, but I don't believe water, public water would be affected by this, either of the bills at all. Does that answer your question?

REP. ROY: The lawyers -- eventually, they'll get involved. We've also heard over the years that education is the key. Chemical industries have been very poor with educating; in fact, fight us each time. Do you have or do you know of any education programs that could be adopted that we or some of the environmental organizations could use for educational purposes since the chemical companies aren't stepping forward that you do?

SARAH UHL: Well, unfortunately, most consumer products, the vast majority are not labeled in terms of their chemical ingredients. So for example, if I were to go to a Claire's Jewelry Store and look for a child's jewelry product, there would be no way for me as a consumer to know if it contains cadmium or lead. So while I do agree with you that educational programs are very important, and we certainly at the Clean Water Action do our best to educate the public, right now it's impossible to shop our way out of this problem. We really need new regulations that put the onus on the big manufacturers and the chemical companies to demonstrate safety prior to going to market.

REP. ROY: Would that mean finding some manufacturers who don't live in China?

SARAH UHL: That would be nice.

REP. ROY: Any other questions or comments?

Thank you, Sarah.

SARAH UHL: Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Pamela Puchalski followed by Steve Rosario.

PAMELA PUCHALSKI: Good afternoon, Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Pamela Puchalski, and I'm the coordinator for Connecticut's Safer Chemicals in the Workplace campaign that focuses on chemical policy reform here in Connecticut.

Our organization strongly supports H.B. 5126, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT. We believe that the proposed institute would help make Connecticut business more competitive on a global and national level while offering more protection for workers, consumers and the environment from hazardous chemicals.

We also support H.B. 5130, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS, because efforts to prioritize and list the most toxic chemicals raises awareness about the types of substances that we should move away from as a society and can particularly help to reduce worker exposure at facilities where children's products are manufactured.

In the recent past, modern technology has dramatically changed the landscape of our workplace, our homes and our environment. More than 80,000 synthetic chemicals have been produced for use in the United States since World War II. Only a small number of these have been adequately tested for their potential impact on the workers who use them.

and the consumers who purchase products containing them. Workers who regularly come in contact with dangerous substances and who therefore receive a higher dose than the general public bear a disproportionate share of the adverse impacts of products made with toxic chemicals. A conservatively estimated 50,000 to 60,000 deaths occur in our country each year due to occupational toxic chemical exposures and other occupational illnesses. Here in Connecticut, one of the largest occupational epidemiology studies in the US is currently assessing the links between chemical exposures in the workplace and a rare form of brain cancer.

OSHA has adopted workplace exposure limits for approximately 7 percent of chemicals used in the U.S. in high volume, and the U.S. has only phased out five substances out of the approximately 80,000 in commerce. At our annual convention in the fall, then-acting Deputy Secretary of OSHA, Jordan Barab, addressed the need for chemical policy reform but also reiterated that Fed OSHA could only do so much because of so many other pressing health and safety issues in the workplace. This brings us to why a chemical innovations institute would be of benefit to Connecticut and its businesses.

A few years ago, a manufacturing company here in Connecticut found out that some of its retirees were going blind within a few years of retiring. Upon further investigation, it was determined that one of the chemicals used in the final degreasing processes was causing the blindness. After much research and hundreds of thousands of dollars later, the company was able to substitute a safer alternative for that particular chemical. In a similar situation, but with the

establishment of a chemical innovations institute, the institute could have provided the research and subsequent data more quickly and at a much lower fee than the company ultimately paid. The company -- this company was very financially solvent and was able to support the change while maintaining production, but there are others out there that do not have the resources to pay for outside researchers.

The chemical innovations institute would also be set up to collaborate with similar institutions in other states and nations, thereby expanding their database on a regional, national and even global level. We hope you will take action to make Connecticut a leader in reducing exposure to toxic chemicals for our children, workers, general public and the environment by voting for House Bill 5126 and House Bill 5130. Thank you.

REP. ROY: Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: On this bill for the chemical innovations institute, I'm a little concerned with one of the purposes of the institute, and that is not to deal directly with toxic chemicals, but instead, as the bill says, to provide assistance to others to deal with toxic or safe chemicals. One of the things that was going through my mind was that as we were looking at the safe products bill, we could give that job of looking at what are the most toxic chemicals to this institute that we'll create if this bill passes. But actually, it wouldn't work, because the way this bill is drafted, the institute only will be assisting others. It says businesses and nonprofits. And will not actually be an action organization with respect to toxic or safe chemicals. Did you take that into

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account?

PAMELA PUCHALSKI: I have not, but as I listen to the question, it makes me think of -- as I understand the purpose of this, it's a first step towards developing communication of these toxic products with business.

I mean, the idea at this point also is the fact that to keep it as an organization that can utilize existing data and keep also keep it -- not have a fiscal note on it as well. I mean, I would say that there would be room for development of more than assistance to businesses over time. I take this as a first step in the right direction.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay, but I mean, what it says in Lines 5 through 7 are very key to this bill, and it says the purpose of the institute, I'm quoting, is to "provide assistance to businesses, state agencies and nonprofit organizations that seek to utilize safe alternatives to chemicals that are harmful." So this is not an action institute in that sense. It's more of an information provider or clearing house, and I just want to be sure that those of you who are supporting this institute understand that that's what this bill says.

PAMELA PUCHALSKI: I see it as more of a consulting kind of organization or institute.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay. That's pretty soft, just consulting.

PAMELA PUCHALSKI: Are you saying it should be more rather than --

SENATOR MEYER: I think until or unless we are able to staff up DEP, you know, this could be an

alternative with respect to toxic chemicals,  
but the bill is not written that way.

PAMELA PUCHALSKI: Then perhaps it would be good to  
maybe -- I'm not involved with the writing of  
the bill, and maybe that would be something  
that Sarah would be better prepared to deal  
with than I am at this point. I'm sorry for  
not having a better answer to that.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments from members  
of the committee?

Seeing none, thank you, Pamela.

PAMELA PUCHALSKI: Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Steve Rosario followed by Trudy Swenson.

STEVE ROSARIO: Good afternoon, Representative Roy,  
Senator Meyer. For the record, my name is  
Steve Rosario. I'm with the American  
Chemistry Council. First, I have to  
apologize. I don't have copies of my  
statement. I have been without electricity  
since Thursday afternoon, and in plowing my  
way out of the snow storm that we've had, this  
is actually my first day out in public, so to  
speak.

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The second thing I'd like to say today, it is  
almost impossible for me to respond and to  
talk about some of the issues that have been  
raised here in three minutes, and I would hope  
that the committee could give me a little  
leeway.

As I mention, I'm with the American Chemistry  
Council. We represent the business of  
chemistry and plastics technology here in

Connecticut and elsewhere. I am here on behalf of some more than 72,000 employees here in Connecticut, men and women who are mothers and fathers and grandparents that we employ. I want to point out that we also care about the safety of our children. ACC, our members and our employees who also have children are also committed to the safety of our products, and we will continue to support laws and regulations that protect consumer safety.

One of the things that continues to occur, and I mean no disrespect, are some of the myths surrounding our industry and what we do. This is a complicated, difficult and expensive proposition when you talk about the regulation of chemicals, something that the federal government has done since 1976 when TSCA was first passed. Now, TSCA is part of EPA, but there are 12 other federal agencies that have jurisdiction over our industry. They employ armies of scientists, toxicologists, health professionals, chemists and others. The federal government spends hundreds of millions of dollars in this area every year.

And just to give you an example, the Wall Street Journal and Washington Post recently noticed that NIH, on behalf of FDA, is spending \$30 million to study one compound. I know in New York we're facing a huge deficit, and there is no way that New York could even spend \$30,000, and all states, and I believe including Connecticut, are facing some difficult issues.

When talking about TSCA, again, I can't -- I'm not going to judge what the federal government has done in the past, but to give you an example of what has occurred just in the past two to three months, EPA activities that they've undertaken, they proposed amendments

to TSCA Section 4, which deals with enforceable consent agreements. They have published final clarifications for certain chemical identification. They have revised Section 8E, which deals with confidential business information. They have revised Section 5, which deals with electronic reports which we do, and more importantly, and again, this is where I apologize. I did read this article, I just couldn't find it because I couldn't get to it over the weekend. It is my understanding that EPA is also creating a list of chemicals of high concern.

We have been involved in Maine. I could certainly talk in detail about what's going on in Maine, and I think it was Representative Bye who mentioned one of the key concerns with the list. And that is, the uncertainty that these lists create for companies that have to produce products. If you don't know what the chemical is, it creates uncertainty. Once you do know, then it creates a scarlet letter.

And Representative Roy, you talked about education. We have actually had a program called Responsible Care that we had for probably close to 20 years now, and that is a program that our member companies use to educate the public. There is also tons and tons of information on the internet. You could plug in any chemical compound, and thousands of sites and citations would come up. So I would certainly look forward to sitting with you to see what else we could do in terms of educating the public.

REP. ROY: Okay. I'm going to cut you off there. You're over your three minutes. Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: Mr. Rosario, I just -- I don't

think it's particularly helpful in our dialogue just to refer to what the federal government is doing or not doing. Until and unless our states are preempted by federal law or the courts from acting with respect to toxic chemicals, you know, we're going to have to look at this within the four corners of Connecticut. And that's our obligation as members of the General Assembly to do that. And I think the -- I can understand the desire of the chemical industry to have one answer for all 50 states, but that's not legally what's happening now, and therefore, we have to address legislation that's in front of the General Assembly of Connecticut and not legislation in front of the Congress in the United States.

STEVE ROSARIO: I couldn't agree more. We do not disagree on that point. And again, I just couldn't get to it, but I'm glad you asked the question. We're not saying that there's absolutely no role for the states, and I'm glad you did ask the question, because it allows me to respond. We think that there is a role for the states.

First of all, again, under TSCA Section 14B, EPA is prohibited from sharing information with the states. We think that's absolutely ludicrous. There is no reason why EPA shouldn't be able to share information with the states in terms of what they're finding, and vice versa, the states should be able to give information to EPA or whatever federal agency. As I mentioned, there are 12 others. So Senator, we agree. We think that there is a role. The question is, what should that role be, and we agree with what earlier speakers have said in terms of the legislative prerogative. So I don't think we're in disagreement on that point.

REP. ROY: Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The previous speaker mentioned OSHA, and that out of 80,000 drugs or chemicals, they only disallowed five. We're a small state, and our DEP is -- we're being depleted. Some people say that's good. Some people say that's bad. But the fact is, I don't know how we're going to deal with things like that, 80,000 chemicals. And OSHA, I don't know what they do, but I dealt with them when I was in the private sector. I know one year we had to have the fire extinguishers three feet off the ground. The next year, they had to be four and a half feet off the ground. And the medical kits we had on the wall, they had to be in a certain location. They couldn't be close to a door or -- you just, out of sight. There's so many bureaucrats up there. How do we get them to be more responsible? You're being in an industry. Does anybody talk to these people? You know, as we talk, we're polluting the earth, according to EPA. How can we get them to get more involved, because they're the ones that had the resources, the personnel, and they waste all this time dilly-dallying on one or two products, and yet there's so many to look at, we can't do it.

STEVE ROSARIO: Thank you for that question.

First, let me explain the 80,000. I've heard the number as high as 100,000. That 80,000, or actually closer to 82,000, represents a combination of lists that EPA put together back in 1976, 1977, and they just pulled from everywhere that they possibly could find. And that was required under TSCA. The list has not been updated since, and that's one of the problems. There are many chemicals on that

list that are no longer being used. There are other chemicals on that list that are not used for commercial purposes. They are used for specialty purposes. So they are in very, very minute concentrations.

What we really should be looking at and what we are, and in terms of talking -- and I started my career at OSHA as a young lawyer. What we should be looking at are what we call the high production volume chemicals, and there are about 7,500 of those, and we know what those are. And we have been talking with EPA. OSHA deals primarily with chemical exposure to workers. They're not going to be involved in the banning, necessarily, of products directly. That is a function of EPA, and those two agencies do talk to each other. We talk to OSHA and EPA and all these other agencies.

But when it comes to the issue of actually banning chemicals, and this is where we have a concern from a public policy standpoint, is that just some people would advocate that federal agencies have failed because they have not banned chemicals. We don't necessarily view that as a failure. Again, when you look at the resources, the hundreds of millions of dollars that are being spent, and the army of technical experts, you have to wonder what are they doing? And what have they been doing since 1976? I believe they have been doing their work, and as a former federal employee, I think I was quite proud in the work that I did at OSHA.

And by claiming these agencies have not done their jobs because we disagree with their decision because they did not ban chemicals, we undercut and undermine any trust that we may have in those institutions, and at some

point, we have to say -- we have to believe someone, because if not, who's to say why is the Connecticut legislature -- why can we trust them to do a better job or the state legislature of New York, where I also worked at one point, why can we trust them?

So I think we all walk a very fine balance, but we do talk to those agencies and those agencies talk to each other, as NIH is doing the work for FDA on that one compound. I hope I answered your question.

Excuse me? No, I live in New York by -- not far from West Point Military Academy. We got two and a half feet of snow.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You referred back to Representative Chairman Roy's comment about education and the fact that you can enter any number of chemicals in the internet and search. One of the problems is, as others have mentioned in their testimony, we don't know what's in many of these products. It got me thinking, because I am a former teacher and a science teacher, why don't we know that information? Why is it so difficult to get that information? Should we be looking for companies to have on their products a listing of the chemicals that are in those products just as we do in food products?

STEVE ROSARIO: Thanks for that question. In many products, there is quite a bit of information. I think one of the issues or misconceptions about our industry is that we basically formulate a product or a compound that goes into a product and we just put it out into the marketplace.

Again, anything we do -- first of all, we do testing. We have to make sure that those products are safe. We are held accountable by EPA, because they can request information, and from other agencies. So we're not simply putting products out there.

The other issue along those lines in terms of what goes into a product is that we're always trying to build a better mouse trap. I think innovation is one of the last few things that really keeps us ahead of other countries, and why we have as many workers here in Connecticut, and actually, in the northeast. And those that don't innovate will become extinct. Because as we know, the marketplace can be brutal. So the innovators are going to be ahead of the pack.

The other issue is that from an R&D perspective, only the federal government spends more money than us on R&D. And when you look at the fact that our industry touches 96 percent of every product in commerce from either raw material production to end-product production and everything in between, in dealing in this area, you are covering a lot, a lot of ground. You heard a little bit about phthalates earlier, and phthalates is one word, but what that really means is that phthalates are a family of 13 compounds. And there are hundreds of applications within the family of 13.

Lastly, on information, some of it is proprietary. I think that there is a lot of public information out there, but some of it is proprietary. It's like McDonald's secret sauce. No one knows what it is, because that's how McDonald's keeps the competitive edge on its product. Same thing with us. There's certain information -- and that's what

CBI is all about, Confidential Business Information. I think generally speaking, there is a lot of information out there. Someone to pierce the veil to get to some of that CBI information. And again, we think that the products out there pass that safety test. I hope I answered your question, Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS: Well, I would have liked a more direct answer, but you gave a good political answer. Basically, what I think you're saying is that some of these products have chemical basis that you don't want to reveal to other members of the industry, and the question that that raises is that while the chemical compounds may be fairly common throughout the industry, the sccentage of a particular compound or how it's mixed may be the proprietary information, we need to know if we're going to determine whether or not a product -- or if we're just going to research a product, we need to know what the chemicals are that are in that product, and maybe getting at that maybe a little bit more helpful to us.

I know we've talked about chlorine right and left, and I'm certain that there are probably some products that have a chlorine base, or chlorine compound, that may, in fact, be toxic, but with chlorine not itself being a major problem.

So what I'd like to see, and maybe it's something that we can get more information from the industry, is that some way of getting information to the public as to what the chemicals are in their product and toys, particularly when it relates to children's toys. That might be the first step in helping us address the issue of whether or not we can research the products as being toxic or not.

In any case, I know that's going to be a struggle for your industry and one that we face the challenge of, and hopefully we'll work on that with you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Representative Lambert.

REP. LAMBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In the workforce, if I'm exposed to a chemical, I have a legal right to ask for a data sheet, and it would tell me what chemical it is, how it affects us. So if I'm in the work force and I'm owed that right by law, why is it so extremely difficult to ask for the same thing if I'm going to expose my child to a toy?

So that they have data sheets in the workplace, by law, and they protect us, but if I buy a product and bring it in my home, I haven't got a clue of what I'm exposing my family to. So can you give me -- I mean, they do it in the work force, and Representative Miller asked what does OSHA do. Well, that's one of the things OSHA does. OSHA makes sure that we have chemicals, if we're exposed to them, at least the people know the risk of them and the side effects. So in that relationship, if we can do it in the work force, why can't we do it in the product labeling?

STEVE ROSARIO: Well, I know that there are representatives from the toy industry here. I won't speak for them. But certainly we are familiar with the material safety data sheets that are available, and you can and will find a lot of information regarding the chemical

composition, compound composition of products. But I will let the toy folks answer that question.

Representative Davis, in terms of what he mentioned other industries, I think it goes a little bit deeper than that. You have countries like China that are trying to take this particular industry over. They are hungry for the jobs that our industry produces. Also, the plastic-industry jobs. I have had CEOs from small companies say to me -- and this is a little frightening -- that they have been told by officials in China that they want that industry. Right now, if we give away certain information that keeps us ahead of them on the innovation front, eventually they will take over the industry. And it's not only China. We're talking about Brazil. That's an up-and-coming country. Russia.

So -- and while we're talking globally, I know that there are facilities here in Connecticut that have sister facilities in other states, and when someone in corporate is looking at whether or not they're going to move a facility and they know that one of their facilities in Tennessee is doing exactly the same thing that they're doing here in Connecticut, and they're faced with this kind of legislation in other barriers, it's the same thing in New York and elsewhere. I'm not bringing this up because I'm here this Connecticut. Their thinking is, well, we don't need to be in Connecticut. We can move our facility to Tennessee.

So we bring this to your attention because that's the reality of our current, economic, global situation and the competition that we face, not only outside of the United States,

but even internally here with facilities competing against each other.

REP. LAMBERT: But as an answer to something like that, I understand that employers feel that way, but I also have -- if I had legislation here, I would be more than willing to move my family and know I'm going to keep them safe.

STEVE ROSARIO: Again, I think a lot of our employees believe that what they do is to provide safe products. I think if someone didn't, I don't think that they'd be working in the industry. Again, that's my personal opinion, and I do have the privilege of touring facilities, and I would invite any member of the committee to tour one of our facilities and to talk to some of our employees. That is an open-ended invitation. Any time you are interested, and we'll even see if there are facilities in your district, we would more than be happy to invite you to come in and talk to our employees.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Representative Hurlburt.

REP. HURLBURT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not going to talk about the McDonald's secret sauce, although I have great concerns about that comment. One of the things that I wanted to ask you about was earlier in your discussions this afternoon, you had mentioned what other countries are doing, and I believe we heard from somebody else in the industry that it's really a federal issue, that the state doesn't need to play on this level. In light of the feds not acting -- and I think we could have a quick conversation about the Toxic Substance Act, whether or not it is really working well -- but if the feds aren't

acting, isn't it incumbent upon the state to provide some sort of safety for the residents?

STEVE ROSARIO: I would agree with your general premise, but in the area where the federal government is acting and beginning to take aggressive steps in this area -- and I think we're going to see a lot more -- we would argue, and as I said to Senator Meyer, we believe there is a role for the state, and we think that both should be working together, but to address whatever the issue is.

But we think that the feds at least should take the lead because of any number of reasons: They have the resources. They have the technical skill base, et cetera, which I think compliments whatever the State of Connecticut or regional states -- it could be Maine, Connecticut, New York, et cetera. I think that would be a much more powerful force for addressing these issues rather than Connecticut going one way, Maine going another way, Washington going a third way. That, again, leads to uncertainty.

What if Connecticut picks five chemicals here and Maine picks three different ones here and Washington picks another four different? Now you have something that we really cannot deal with, as opposed to those three states working with the federal government saying look, these are where we think we have problems, and pool resources. Especially nowadays when states are facing -- and the federal government also, but it hasn't stopped them from, for example, spending the \$30 million on that one compact. Connecticut is also working on that. Maybe they could even get some of that money.

REP. HURLBURT: Well, we've actually had some conversations with members of our

congressional delegation on that, and they actually encouraged Connecticut to move forward, and maybe pressure from the states will push the federal government to be a little bit more stringent. But in light of what we've seen in Europe with the reach, I mean, you know, other countries are taking strong measures. Other governmental organizations are taking strong measures.

Why would we not follow their lead? We're trying to increase our exports, you know, they're a marketing partner with a nation. I think there's plenty of opportunity for us to work together. Unfortunately, I wish we could work as partners in moving forward safer products for the state, and as we look at places to market Connecticut products and keep Connecticut residents safe.

I'll look forward to working with you over the course of the next few months on this, but I just wish there was a little bit more openness towards resolution. Thank you.

STEVE ROSARIO: Well, thank you very much for that observation. I think we're getting there. One of the things that I will submit with our statement are our ten principals for reforming TSCA. And if you look at what we have set forth, what the 13 state environmental commissioners -- I believe Connecticut was one of the commissioners -- they set forth eight principals.

The NGO community has set forth some of their principals. All three are very, very similar, and we actually held -- and people are probably shocked when they hear this. We actually held a symposium with the Environmental Working Group, which is one of the groups, NGOs, that is being very, very

much involved in the whole issue of chemical regulation, both at the federal level through TSCA and at the state level. We held a joint symposium with them. First time ever.

We have been at loggerheads with them for a long, long time, and we finally said hey, let's see where we can work together, and I believe Senator Lautenberg of New Jersey is submitting legislation to reform TSCA, and I think he's going to be looking at all these principals to include them. So I think there is that effort to bring everyone together and to try and work on this.

REP. HURLBURT: Could it be fair to say that governmental entities have been putting enough pressure or have been going down the road to move the industry to do that?

STEVE ROSARIO: It is certainly one of the factors, but I think that when you look at that, our CEOs, whether you're CEO of a multi corporation or a small, 20-person company, they read the newspapers. They talk to us. That's why we're here is to give them the feedback. And like I said earlier, those that will innovate are going to be the winners.

Those that don't, the market, it can be brutal, as we see, and they will become extinct. So I think our industry will continue to go down that path, be innovative, buy the kind of products that the public and legislators we hope will feel comfortable with a level of safety that will allow us to continue to produce those products without the kind of barriers that make it very difficult to work in the northeast and certain parts of the west coast as well.

Again, that's just reality. I mean absolutely

no disrespect because I happen to be here in Connecticut.

REP. ROY: Thank you. I'm glad that you find ludicrous that the EPA doesn't talk to the states and vice versa or whatever. I think we'll let them know. Maybe they'll open up. The original studies that the federal government used to monitor what was happening in the chemical industry came from the chemical industry. This is going back to the late 1960s, early 1970s, and we found that the chemical industry wasn't always open with the federal government for any number of reasons.

They also have a problem -- and you stated, you know, you worked for OSHA. You were overseeing the industries that could have caused problems in the workplace and dangers and use of chemicals and stuff. Now you're working for the chemical industry. And I find the same thing with the farming district. Monsanto is a huge global giant, and its people and the federal government seem to change places so that there's a lot of friendships there. The military, same thing. They go out and they start the work for the different plane manufacturers, tank manufacturers. And again, there's those relationships that develop and that corners are cut, that deals are made and the public is not protected.

The fertilizer industry. We are among the first in the country to limit the amount of fertilizers on school property, especially for young children and all. I went into a meeting with about two dozen people in the industry, said you want me to trust you. So I asked one question: On these bags of fertilizer they use, there's a point that 93 percent of the ingredients were inert. So I looked around

and I asked what's in those ingredients. Not one person in the room could answer me.

They were putting stuff on the ground that they had no idea was in there. This is the credibility gap that we have, trying to get not only the chemical industry, but other industries to come to the table and be open and honest with us so that we can do our job to protect these folks here. People come to us and say please protect my child. Please help us make the right choices.

So I'm leaving you with that thought, that please give us good, open, honest information so we can do the best job possible for our citizens here in Connecticut. Thank you.

STEVE ROSARIO: May I respond just to correct the record? In terms of EPA, unfortunately, they are prohibited by law, by Section 14B, from sharing that information. I think that if TSCA is reformed, that ultimately that will be one of the forms that they'll be able to share with you. Legally right now they can't. In terms of the cross-fertilization that you talked about, after I left OSHA, I continued my career in government in New York for a good 15 years and I was far away from Washington and all of that before I joined the industry, and I was in a field totally unrelated to what I'm doing now. So I really can't talk about that cross-fertilization. I don't think it applies to me.

The last point, Representative, is I think you've known me for a couple years now, and I've always tried to be forthright and straightforward. I think you know that what you see is what you get, and that when it comes to providing information, I always try and go the extra mile or ten miles to get you

or any committee member, and Senator Meyer, as well, the information that you need. And I think we've brought some of our technical experts here, some that work for us, some that are independent. So I think I've tried to do that. If I have failed at any point, please point it out and I take full responsibility for it, because I am the person on the watch here in the northeast, but I hope that we can continue to provide whatever it is that you need.

REP. ROY: I'll just say the first step would be to give Representative Davis, who isn't out here at the moment, a straight answer and not the political answer. Thank you.

STEVE ROSARIO: Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Trudy Swenson followed by Wayne Jervis. Trudy?

Not here.

Wayne Jervis followed by Michael Gail.

WAYNE JERVIS: Thank you for having me here. I'm a parent of three children, elementary school students. My wife is pregnant and I'm here to talk about Bill 206. I've collected 384 signatures from residents of Greenwich, Connecticut, who desire that cell phone towers be located one mile from schools, daycare facilities and elderly living facilities -- or further away. These petitioners also desire that the siting authority for cell phone towers be returned to municipal authorities. We've had an overwhelming and positive response rate to about 85 percent of the people that have approached it signed our petition. They're concerned about the health and safety of their elderly and children.

KENNETH BALDWIN: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments?

Seeing none, thank you very much, sir.

KENNETH BALDWIN: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Joyce Acebo Raguskus followed by Timothy Morris.

JOYCE ACEBO RAGUSKUS: Good afternoon.  
Representative -- thank you very much for letting me speak this afternoon.

My testimony is in support of H.B. 5130, THE CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS ACT to protect children from the chemicals of highest concern in toys and other product designed for their use. Also in support of H.B. 5126, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE.

I'm sure most of us at some point have gotten lost in the toy department walking up and down the colorful aisles to try to reach for the most enticing toy to bring joy to our little ones. And I'm sure most Connecticut consumers trust and assume that if the toy or a child products has made it to the shelves, it has also made it through stringent, objective testing and contains no chemicals hazardous to the health of our children. To boot, there are no real -- no red flags waiving through the rows and rows confirming even further this assumption.

Unfortunately, this thinking is faulty. Many such products, as we know now, are laced with chemical toxins, like Bisphenol-A, consuming

cadmium difference from eating carrots. Mercury, bromine, chlorine, PVC and arsenic are common. I repeat that word, "common" ingredients in our children's products.

Now where lies the accountability and the responsibility? We kick the bottle, the BPA bottle last session, the poisoning leaching fields contaminating the bodies and brains of infants and children. Attorney General Blumenthal kicked the them right off the shelves in Connecticut, and we, all of us here, helped to pass one of the strongest BPA bills in the nation and globally, I believe, thanks to all your support.

But this is the tip of the toxic chemical iceberg, indeed. We've secured some hatches, but toxic chemicals continue it swim in the bloodstreams of our little ones. Toxic toys and products are waiting on the shelves and placed the in vulnerable hands and mouths to be swallowed up, altering hormones and causing distress, as we speak, until we take responsibility and stop. Time is of the essence here.

Dr. Mark Mitchell of Connecticut and the Coalition for the Environment of Justice and Dennis McBride, Health Department Director Dr. Yong, head of Toxology at Yale all share that reform state and federal is absolutely essential and waiting.

I strongly support the two bills, 5130 and 5126. I won't elaborate because of time on the bills particulars. Simply to say that they are the basic ingredients for building healthy minds and bodies without delay, and I thank you all for what you have done and what you do do and for this opportunity.

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REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any questions or comments?

Representative Lambert.

REP. LAMBERT: Joyce, thank you for coming today, but I want to say that it's not just your testimony. It's a visual that you did that I'll never forget.

You asked us to bring in little things that we had around the house, the little rubber duckies, and then you had that lead machine. And then I heard noises go off. And then Sarah Uhl had been involved in this test. I -- I am so frightened to pick out a toy anymore. I buy clothes. I hope that's safe. I hope it's safe. But it's fact of it is, I mean, we do have to take responsibility. And it's people like you that are bringing things like this to our attention, that we're becoming better consumers, because we understand that there can be changes done and I'm glad you're here to support these bills.

Thank you.

JOYCE ACEBO RAGUSKUS: Thank you so much, Barbara.

REP. ROY: If the clothes come from China like the toys, you better check them.

Any other questions or comments?

Seeing none, Joyce, thank you very much.

Timothy Morse followed by Tim Phelan.

TIMOTHY MORSE: Good afternoon, Representative Roy, Senator Meyer and members of the Committee. Thanks for this opportunity to testify in

HB5126

support of House Bill 5126 on the CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT UCONN HEALTH CENTER.

I'm Tim Morse. I'm a professor in the occupational and environmental health center at the University of Connecticut Health Center, and with me is Nancy Simcox who is an industrial hygienist with our group as well.

As we heard from a lot of the discussion, and I submitted written testimony, so I'll just summarize here. There are a lot of emerging laws, regulations, changes on the international and national level. A lot of Connecticut businesses is dependent on exports and in navigating this changing legal marketplace.

And we found that there is a big need for a better understanding of what those regulations are, how they're changing, and ever how to evaluate chemicals in relation to those regulations. There's actually a lot of holes in what we know about chemical use in Connecticut industry and more generally, we know about the toxics problems of just researching of the high-volume chemicals. We know that there's not comprehensive reporting of what chemicals are used in Connecticut industry.

We went to a graduate student that I had just recently finished a report that used reporting amounts from the Massachusetts that's required under the Massachusetts Toxic Use Reduction Act. And we modeled that on to Connecticut industry and found that we estimated that there are about 660 million pounds of chemicals being used in manufacturing in Connecticut with about 300 million pounds being carcinogens and reproductive toxins.

So there's -- now, that's just a model, so we don't know if that's completely true for Connecticut industry. But I think it underscores the need for better research and better understanding of what chemicals are used in Connecticut industries and how they're used and -- and where they go to.

We think that a Chemical Innovations Institute can help industry understand those both the laws and what were the restrictions in terms of European markets, TSCA reform and so on. We've already started in providing training to employers and to workers on ways of evaluating chemicals and evaluating safer alternatives.

We can help develop linkages to national and international groups. We already have a number of those relationships begun. And that we can also link to green chemistry efforts such as down at the Yale center that just started up in recent years.

We believe -- I'll conclude by saying our center has a lot of experience working with Connecticut businesses on industrial hygiene, chemical evaluation, ergonomics, and other things. We've worked with hundreds of Connecticut businesses and workers. We think Bill 5126 can help in that effort by giving increased visibility to a center, which would help us in attracting funding from a variety of sources, foundations, grants, and so on, and as well as a high-profile advisory board would be very helpful on that.

REP. ROY: Okay. Thank you. Hold it there.

Any questions or comments from members of the committee?

Representative Lambert.

REP. LAMBERT: Thank you for your testimony.

Do you feel that because it's your expertise, do you feel that in most cases, most companies are compliant if there is a chemical in their -- in their -- they post their data sheets? Do you feel that most of them, they're not trying to hide what they have? Are had he more forthright than some of us would believe?

TIMOTHY MORSE: Yeah, I think, you know, since I did my doctoral dissertation on the history of the right to know legislation, so I am familiar with this area. And most companies now are fully compliant with the hazard communication standard, which is giving their workers access to information about chemicals.

But there's very little gathering of that on a statewide level. There's some under the -- under the TRI system. There's some reporting that goes to local fire marshals, but it tends to be very large quantities, and so we still don't have a good understanding of patterns within industries. But I think in relation to giving information to their own employees, they're quite good.

REP. LAMBERT: And do you think they collect data from their employees if they are to get ill? I mean, is will any kind of follow-up on that? Like if there's five people in one industry -- and I won't name any names -- that they have brain tumors or whatever, is there a database for that, also, while we're thinking of this bill?

TIMOTHY MORSE: There's -- there's not a good database for that. Occupational disease tends to be very underreported. It's actually

another one of my research areas. And I track occupational diseases that are reported by worker's compensation physicians in the state, and the OSHA surveys. And current research is probably somewhere -- for occupational disease, probably depending on the type of disease, you're talking 10 to 20 percent actually gets reported.

And that tends to be more acute disease, so things like cancers and so on are very rarely detected in terms of clusters.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any --

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: Are you Professor Morse? Is that right?

TIMOTHY MORSE: Correct.

SENATOR MEYER: And Professor, and you're -- you're with -- that would take this institute, University of Connecticut Health Center would take this?

TIMOTHY MORSE: That's correct.

SENATOR MEYER: Any financial implications of creating this do you see under this bill? There's a provision in the bill you can see for federal -- to take federal grants.

TIMOTHY MORSE: Right. We're fully cognizant of the fiscal problems facing Connecticut.

SENATOR MEYER: Right.

TIMOTHY MORSE: So -- so we're not asking for

funding under this bill. And we need that language in there that says that if we can't get funding that we wouldn't be obligated to do --

SENATOR MEYER: Right.

JOYCE ACEBO RAGUSKUS: -- to do --

SENATOR MEYER: Right. I saw that at the end.

TIMOTHY MORSE: Because we -- our whole unit, for the most part, is soft funded, so we're funded, you know, we don't have general funding support. So pretty much we're entrepreneurs, I suppose in the sense that we're funded under grants, contracts and so on.

So -- so we think that this would be helpful because I think that it would help us with getting foundation support. We already have a number of grants that are starting this way. We have a recent grant from NYOSH that Nancy is coordinating, looking at the transition to green cleaners in state agencies, for example, in looking at obstacles and impediments and what the actual exposures are that came about after the bill that got passed here requiring the transition to green cleaners.

So that's an example. We've done other conferences that we've gotten grant support for that included business and labor and environmental groups looking at green chemistry and control banding and ways of evaluating chemicals, so we're pretty facile at attracting funding. We think that this bill would help us do that.

SENATOR MEYER: You know, taking into account the staffing problems we have at Department of

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Environmental Protection and Department of Public Health, this is to -- there institute could be a real help to Connecticut and to the question of chemicals.

TIMOTHY MORSE: Yeah.

SENATOR MEYER: I think it would be -- I'm just to just make a suggestion to you that you or some other representative of the Health Center drop a note to the Office of Fiscal Analysis telling that office that there won't be any implications to the state and why.

TIMOTHY MORSE: Yeah.

SENATOR MEYER: I'm very concerned that this bill do get kicked because of an OFA, Office of Fiscal Analysis memo that would -- that would say that it has a cost of undetermined proportions or something like that.

TIMOTHY MORSE: We're -- we're -- I've been working with JoAnne Lombardo on this, and I believe that that's in process if it hasn't happened already.

SENATOR MEYER: Good.

TIMOTHY MORSE: And she's already submitted written testimony on behalf of Vice President Lorenz on this bill.

TIMOTHY MORSE: Great. Thank you, Professor.

REP. ROY: Representative Hornish.

REP. HORNISH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

You had mentioned that with occupational diseases, about 10 to 20 percent are reported. Typically, you know, I assume that -- what

degree of confidence would a company need to have in order to report or assume causation from a certain exposure?

TIMOTHY MORSE: The ones that tend to get reported are the ones that tend to be closer to acute. So repetitive trauma, for example, carpal tunnel syndrome and so on, for example.

So if you had two or three workers working in the same kind of area, then that would be likely to get recognized. Occupational cancers that have long latency periods or have multiple causation and so on are much less likely to get into that system.

And, you know, we did the study even of asbestos-related cancers, like Mesothelioma, and, you know, there were about -- at the time we did that, about 35 per year that were getting reported for Connecticut fatalities from mesothelioma, from asbestos, but virtually none from lung cancer. We know that from epidemiologic studies that are about ten times as many lung cancers from asbestos than there are from Mesothelioma. So you get huge underreporting even from something that's so as well recognized as asbestos.

When you get it a lot of chemicals that haven't even been studied properly toxicologically, so number one; number two, you need a physician to make the connection, and they're more concerned with treating the disease than they are understanding the cause. So there are a lot of factors that go into that under reporting. Does that answer your question?

REP. HORNISH: I believe so. Yeah, I know it's very -- it's hard to assess sometimes, I'm sure.

TIMOTHY MORSE: Faculty have a hard time answering anything in short. I apologize.

REP. HORNISH: Okay. Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Representative Hurlburt

REP. HURLBURT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And good to see both of you today. I appreciate you making the effort to come up and join us. I apologize for being out of the room, but did you have an opportunity to address what you guys have been doing so far within your departments and working with the University of Massachusetts up at Lowell with their similar project?

TIMOTHY MORSE: Briefly. We have done a couple of major conferences. One is on controlled banding, which is actually a series ever conferences that's been training teams from different companies, about 60 different companies in Connecticut, to do qualitative chemical analysis so that they can understand what are the most hazardous chemicals that they have. It helps them in determining whether there are safer alternatives, because there's kind of a way of doing that easily. And that was quite successful.

We had another one that had about 180 people that came from around the state from business, labor and environmental groups looking at green chemistry and safer alternatives and looking at that process. We've worked with UMass Lowell on a variety of projects over it's last 15 years, really. We have very close ties to them. We have a shared healthy workplace center with UMass Lowell. We work with a lot of their policy people and have

worked with -- they've developed a WICKI on the green screen approach, which is part of the interstate chemical clearinghouse, and we've helped with that. We've been to a number of their conferences. Other things that we've done, Nancy, that you can think?

NANCY SIMCOX: We've toured their laboratory for green where they evaluate the green cleaning products that they certify.

REP. ROY: Would you please give your name when you speak

NANCY SIMCOX: Sorry. Nancy Simcox.

TIMOTHY MORSE: Thank you. So it's not like we're, you know, recreating something. We're kind of taking what you guys have been doing and giving you more of a formal setting, which I think in our meeting that we discussed that that structure gives some security to the industry and gives some legitimacy to -- to the institute and would allow you guys to pursue federal and private financing and understanding Senator Meyer's concerns, you know, we did talk extensively about the fact that this would be not stated funded, but this would be an as-funded basis. And if there were private or, you know, other nonstate grants available to continue the funding, you know, that would be -- that's contingent upon the institute.

NANCY SIMCOX: That's correct. That's our understanding, yes.

TIMOTHY MORSE: And in relation to Senator Meyers question before about doing toxicological evaluations and so on as opposed to DEP or DPH, I think our main concerns -- two main concerns, I suppose. One is the fiscal, which

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is that we don't have funding for doing that. So, you know, we basically have to pay for the grant. We have to do the grants that we're being paid to do. And the second is that universities aren't really very well oriented towards doing regulatory approaches. We're better at research and education is really our strengths.

REP. HURLBURT: Great. Thank you very much.

And thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any other questions or comments?

Nancy, please stop at the clerk's desk so they have the correct spelling of your name for the records. Thank you.

TIMOTHY MORSE: Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Tim Phelan followed by Daniel Csuka.

TIMOTHY PHELAN: Good afternoon, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Tim Phelan. I'm the president of the Connecticut Retail Merchants Association and also executive director of the Connecticut Jewelers Association.

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For the record, the -- the Retail Merchants Association is a statewide trade association representing some of the world's largest retailers and the State's main street Merchants.

Whoa, that's it. Geez, waited around for that long. Can I continue?

And the Connecticut Jewelers Association obviously represents the jewelry industry

have that debate, I suppose, but at the same time, we -- we have a commerce that we have to conduct. We have business that we have to -- we have to continue with and we want to try to minimize as much as we can that disruption in commerce.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments in?

Seeing none, Tim thank you very much.

TIMOTHY PHELAN: Thank you, Representative Roy.

REP. ROY: Daniel Csuka followed by Carolyn Wysocki.

DANIEL CSUKA: Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunities to speak in front of you today.

My name is Daniel Csuka. I'm second year law student at the University of Connecticut and an intern with the Connecticut Public Health Association. I am here to speak for the Connecticut Public Health Association in support of House Bill Number 5126, FOR THE CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE.

I apologize. I'm getting over being sick, so my voice might cut out every now and then. So briefly speaking for myself, although I cannot claim to have any direct evidence of my personally being affected by the toxic chemicals present in the Connecticut environment, studies do suggest it is likely. Members of my family, several of them have spent years trying to conceive and they've endured numerous tests and surgeries to determine what the problem is and how to fix it, and they're not alone by any means, as you

all know.

So fertility problems are one of the main problems that are associated with toxic chemical exposure. Over the years, among other things, there's been about a 40 percent increase in women reporting difficulty conceiving. There's been an increase in endometriosis. You know, a whole -- whole other slew of factors that -- that are being attributed to toxic chemical exposure.

And these days, I really think one would have trouble finding someone who doesn't know anyone else who has known someone who has had trouble conceiving. I think enough people have talked about a background with the federal government not doing enough with the toxic chemical reduction. I think that's what it's called.

So I really do think that at this point, the state should probably try to take it step forward and do something in a positive direction to limit the -- the amount of chemicals in our environment.

Again, as other people have mentioned, it would allow us to -- it would enable Connecticut to both contribute to and tap into similar programs in other states in the area like TURA in Massachusetts, which Dr. Morris spoke a little bit about. TURA has really helped tremendously, and some facts that I found regarding that is they were able to reduce the use of toxic chemicals by 40 percent, byproduct waste by 58 percent, toxic emissions by 80 percent, and it would also of course help businesses save money and get them more involved with other businesses overseas.

Again, TURA has saved companies a total of \$14 million so far since they came into being. Third, the most obvious benefit would be a reduction in health care costs. There are various estimates, but -- but one fact suggested that even if we were to reduce the amount of chronic disease attributed to toxic chemical exposures, Connecticut would see about a \$50 million dollar kickback from that.

So for all those reasons and a few others, the Connecticut Public Health Association is in strong support of House Bill 5126. And thank you for this opportunities and I'll try to answer whatever questions you have.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any questions or comments from members of the Committee?

Good job, Daniel.

Our next speaker is Carolyn Wysocki followed by Gus Kellogg.

Please turn your microphone on.

CAROLYN WYSOCKI: Okay. Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environmental Committee, my name is Carolyn Wysocki, and as president of the Ecological Health Organization, also known as ECHO, I am here to voice our support for House Bill 5126 REGARDING THE CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE, and House Bill 5130, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS.

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Almost 20 years ago, ECHO was formed as a statewide nonprofit advocacy and support organization for people with multiple chemical syndrome, which is also known as MCS, and for

others who care about its prevention. MCS is a chronic disorder as a result of massive single exposure to a chemical such as in a pesticide or a cumulative building up of toxic chemicals in our bodies over a period of time.

We develop increased reactions to various chemicals found in products such as pesticides, building materials, cosmetics, fragrances and cleaning products, and then we exhibit respiratory, neurological, muscular, cardiovascular symptoms. All those are dependent upon the type of chemical that we've had exposure to. There's no known cure for MCS and most effective treatment found today is avoidance.

We and our families are being expose to toxic chemicals on a daily basis in our home, school and work environments. It is only after the fact when there is a sufficient number of people with an illness that some corrective actions action is done like removing the product or chemical from the market as was done with dioxin, mercury, PVC, et cetera.

I am not only speaking about people with MCS, but those children and adults who are contributing to a growing epidemic of chronic diseases and disorders that include cancer, asthma, learning and developmental disabilities, birth defects, et cetera.

Since 2001, CDC has been tracking the levels of synthetic chemicals in the blood and urine of average Americans. Our so-called body burden. These studies found that all of us are contaminated with household and industrial chemicals and pesticides, some of which request buildup in our bodies, our blood, fat tissues, muscle, bone, brain or other organs.

For example, PCB and DDT, two persistent chemicals that have been banned for 30 years are still found in nearly all the people tested by CDC. Other chemicals lodge in our bodies for only a short time before it becomes excreted. Just as the canaries in the coal mines, people with MCS are the human canaries of the 21st century. We've been warning people about the toxic chemicals in the air, water, food and products we use in your homes, offices and environments that are affecting public health.

We owe it to our children and grandchildren to provide a safe environment, safer substances, safer alternatives and safer manufacturing processes to reduce hazardous substances in consumer products. As a founding member of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut, ECHO supports the establishment of an innovation institute that would help lessen the risk of people becoming ill from toxic chemicals.

By replacing toxic chemicals with safer alternatives, we can help reduce the number of people who not only develop MCS, but those who may develop cancer, reproductive and neuro-degenerative disorders. By helping Connecticut manufacturers make the transition to safer substances and processes, we can reduce illnesses and health care costs and improve worker community an environmental health.

The good news is that the harm caused by toxic chemicals is preventable and (inaudible) is prevention is my intention.

I also want to support House Bill 5005 in regards to the green hotels. I just learned that, you know, from the testimony this

morning from Representative Janowski, yes, that it was on the agenda today, and I'm supporting it from ECHO. And there's also a green hotel directory that shows there's a number of hotels and motels throughout the country that are going green, and do some of the things that she's hoping to do through her bill.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any questions or comments from members of the Committee?

Representative Lambert.

REP. LAMBERT: I like your motto is prevention is my intention, but once someone is infected with this or they're toxic, is there a cure? I mean, do they -- it's just controlled?

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CAROLYN WYSOCKI: Like I say, avoidance is the best thing that doctors can recommend, and with that is like we have to take certain precautions, like chlorine was mentioned before. Okay. Well, we have water filters both for drinking water and in the shower. You know, we have air purifiers. You know, we have to use supplements most -- most of the time because there's chemicals in medication. So we have to adjust our -- our lifestyle. We can't be where people wear perfume, for one.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments?

We're all set. Thank you very much.

Gus Kellogg followed by Chris Phelps.

GUS KELLOGG: Good afternoon, Chairman Roy,

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REP. HURLBURT: We'll work together on that. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you again, Gus.

GUS KELLOGG: thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments?

Seeing none, thank you very much.

GUS KELLOGG: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Chris Phelps followed by Lori Vitagliano.

CHRISTOPHER PHELPS: Good afternoon, Chairman Roy, Chairman Meyer, members of the Committee. I'm Christopher Phelps. I'm the director of Environment Connecticut. We are a nonprofit member supported environmental advocacy organization in Connecticut. And I've submitted written testimony and comments on House Bill 5126. I also want to try, in my few minutes here, to take a couple of moments to provide some thoughts on Bill 5130 as well.

Regarding 5126, this bill -- we strongly support this legislation, which really creates a mechanism for a public private partnership, if you will between our state's flagship university industry and public health community and scientists, who really help Connecticut industry and businesses move towards reducing the use of toxic chemicals in our state. That provides two, as I see it, significant benefits to Connecticut.

One is helping business and industry reduce its costs related to various things such as

regulatory compliance with the handling in management of toxic chemicals. We can move in your processes from a toxic chemical to a safer alternative. There are costs savings for businesses associated with that and certainly, as you heard testimony, competitive benefits in the national and international marketplace. The second is, quite obviously, to the extent that we are able to help our businesses and our industries in the state work together to reduce the use and the consumption of toxic materials.

That will inevitably reduce the emissions of toxics into our air and our water and our landscape, protecting our environment, protecting wildlife, protecting public health. I hate the cliché, but it's a win-win for everyone in the state to move in this direction.

I'd also like to point out the legislation specifically protects -- has language protecting UCONN from being forced to divert resources. It does not require the use of additional resources, financial resources from the University of Connecticut to implement this program, and that is obviously very important in the current budget and economic climate.

I really am thrilled to see this legislation before this committee, because 21 years ago, my first job was working to help pass the Toxic Use Reduction Institute legislation in Massachusetts that has been so successful in that state, and I think it's high time, we saw something similar here in Connecticut.

Regarding 5130, I heard a few minutes ago Mr. Faylen talking about this legislation and I was a little bit confused, because I did

MARTHA KELLY: Good afternoon, Chairmans Roy and Meyer and members of the committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak this afternoon. I'm Martha Kelly. I live in Hartford and I'm a member of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice. I'm speaking in support of House Bill 5126, which would establish the chemical innovations institute, and House Bill 5130, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS.

I strongly support these two bills, which would help to -- begin to address our concerns voiced by many people about the weakness of the federal TSCA law, and I congratulate the committee for the action that it's taken in the past to ban, for example, lead and asbestos in children's products. It's instructive that we've had to come here to get legislation on those issues. I'm concerned about these issues as an individual and as an activist and as a parent and grandmother.

Many of the chemicals that are in use are a hormonally active and disrupt the body's internal systems. And these chemicals, which seem to be very common, more and more things turn out to be endocrine disrupters. They can have intergenerational effects, where an exposure of a parent ends up causing harm to a descendant, a child or grandchild. That worries me.

Also, health disparities in different communities which are not clear as to their causes, but they're probably more than just health access affect -- affecting the urban communities. For example, that I've seen evidence that black women have higher mortality from breast cancer, even though they may have lower incidence of it and have more

aggressive tumors.

My written testimony contains a link to work done on this by the Center for Environmental Oncology at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute. And you don't have it in your packet because I was late turning it in, but it's available.

Whatever we put into products goes eventually into the waste stream, and in Hartford, we have many of the waste disposal incineration landfill and other facilities, so the urban populations are disproportionally exposed to those.

Okay. Thank you.

So anyway, basically, I'm very concern about the whole issue of our body burden of many chemicals showing up in infants and I think that both of these bills would be very helpful ways to move our efforts to the next step, particularly the chemical innovations instituted which could work also to help Connecticut industry be more competitive.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Ms. Kelly.

Are there any questions from the committee?

You did it.

MARTHA KELLY: Good.

SENATOR MEYER: You're -- you're clear. Thank you. Our next witness is Andy Hackman followed by Annamarie Beaulieu and then Kim O'Rourke.

ANDREW HACKMAN: Good afternoon, Chairman Meyer and members of the committee. I appreciate you hanging with us or hanging this afternoon in

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the stamina that you've had to have great questions for former presenters and I appreciate you accepting the testimony. I am here on behalf the Toy Industry Association. We have over 500 manufacturers and distributors of toys that are here in the United States. We have 20 members that are in Connecticut that represent more than 600 jobs here in the state.

And we, unfortunately, are opposed to House Bill 5130, as currently drafted. We agree with the goal of the legislation in terms of ensuring that the substances used in toys and children's products are the safest available. It's something our industry absolutely strives for.

I want to talk a little bit first about how our industry is regulated and the system that we've established internally to ensure that toys are safe and so that we do -- when do you walk down those shelves, you can feel confident that our products are safe. And then I want to hone in very specifically about some problems we see in the legislation and get right to the point in terms of the flaws that we see and ways that we think the bill needs to be improved for it to be feasible.

First, we are regulated extensively as an industry. The Consumer Products Safety Improvement Act, which passed in 2008, has established very stringent regulations for all substances in our products. It is illegal for us to sell toys that expose children to known substances that cause harm. Specifically, we are also regulated through an ASTM standard that is now legally binding and mandatory law.

The issue of cadmium has been brought up. Cadmium is regulated in toys. Exposure to

cadmium is specifically regulated in our ASTM standard as are other heavy metals. So I want that to be clear. We are regulated extensively for those substances and not allowed to expose children to known chemicals of concern. As I said, we've got a layer of regulations federally and our industry also has the toy safety certification program that is meant to show and to certify that our toys are safe.

I was talking with one of our members earlier today, and before a product goes to market, they have 130 pages of certifications and independent testing that must take place before they can bring a product to market. So I think that's a very strong fact in support of the safety that our industry has committed to and recommitted itself to in recent years.

In terms of specific concerns with this legislation, this bill would -- proposes to identify chemicals of concern and ban them. I think on its face that seems like a very good concept. The parameters that are spelled out in this legislation would pull in approximately 2,000 chemicals. If you look at the list from Maine, Washington and other places, those would be about 2,000 chemicals, and there's no serious criterion on how to get from 2,000 chemicals down to just five -- and I'll wrap up here quickly -- but we believe that there must be a strong criterion that moves from this random -- potentially picking chemicals at random off this list of 2,000 down to those chemicals that are of highest concern and have exposure. Another element that is missing from this legislation is the consideration of exposure and chemicals that are intentionally added versus trace elements or chemicals that are below the de minimis limit.

I'll mention briefly cost, as well. In other states that have looked at this issue, specifically California, they've got a program that's somewhat similar. They've estimated this program will cost the state \$7.3 million in the first five years. I understand we want to protect safety. I just wanted to make sure that this committee understands the -- the resources that that state has committed towards this issue. We believe that their approach is one that hopefully will balance risk and exposure, but that program is not even yet up and running.

The last thing I want to mention is in terms of stakeholder input. This legislation doesn't provide for formal stakeholder input process. I think it's something that needs to be included and needs to be a strong elements of any chemicals program here in the state.

The final point I want to end on is sort of a personal one. I've got a 16-month old daughter at home. This is not an issue I take lightly. This is not an issue that I can go to bed at night representing this industry without feeling strongly that the safety of the products that I represent and that this industry provides to the American public are safe. So again, I appreciate the time and I appreciate the stamina with which you've handled questions and been thoughtful on this matter. And again, I just really appreciate the opportunities to be here this afternoon.

SENATOR MEYER: Mr. Hackman, I know having met you before about a week ago I guess, you come from Cincinnati. Is that right?

ANDREW HACKMAN: That is correct.

SENATOR MEYER: That's where you live.

ANDREW HACKMAN: I woke up at 3:30 this morning --

SENATOR MEYER: Yeah.

ANDREW HACKMAN: -- and kissed my daughter good-bye  
as I grabbed the airplane.

SENATOR MEYER: Can you fly from Cincinnati to  
Hartford?

ANDREW HACKMAN: No, I went through Dulles this  
morning. Dulles in Washington.

SENATOR MEYER: I see. Okay. You know, I've got  
problems with this bill, as well, but there  
are standards in this bill that you don't -- I  
want to draw your attention.

For the -- for the chemical to be on the  
banned list, it's got to have been present in  
human umbilical cord blood, human breast milk,  
human blood or other bodily tissues or it's  
got to be a chemical present in household  
dust, indoor air, drinking water or any area  
of the home environment, or it's got to be a  
chemical that's added to or present in a  
consumer product. So I think there are some  
standards here.

What my concern you may have heard from prior  
questions was that this delegates, perhaps  
improperly, a great deal of authority to one  
state agency, and that, you know, toxic  
chemicals are really under the auspices of the  
General Assembly. So I don't think we'll see  
the bill go through in this form.

ANDREW HACKMAN: If I may, on the issue --

SENATOR MEYER: If you want to make any particular

specific recommendations as we go forward with the bill, that would be helpful.

ANDREW HACKMAN: I certainly think state code of input as I noted is an essential factor, and I think having this committee have that input provides greater stakeholder involvement. In Maine, before a chemical is banned, it has to come back to the Legislature for review. So that's a concept that if the committee is batting around.

In terms criteria that you mentioned -- referenced, the presence of a chemical in those different bio monitoring type studies, that's going to pull in a large number of chemicals. You can test for anything and find it anywhere. You could test this desk and find lots of different chemicals that might show up and be of concern and be on those lists. So I urge you to think about finding the chemicals of highest concern and most adverse impact in terms of criteria here, because just the presence of a chemical doesn't necessarily indicate that we should spend lots of resources trying to go about going about trying to ban it.

And -- because this is a ban in three years, and I know three years might be a time frame that folks here feel comfortable with, but three years is a very short time period. And I looked through the bill a couple of times, I think one of the speakers alluded to the fact that in three years that -- that you can get a waiver from that. I didn't see the waiver process in here, so I think that's something that needs to be addressed and understood.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you.

Representative Hurlburt.

REP. HURLBURT: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

And thank you for your stamina. You're going on quite a day here. You should talk to your lobbyist about getting a better number, I guess. I don't know.

ANDREW HACKMAN: Well, I was running late this morning, so my flight landed at ten o'clock, so we were a little bit nervous about actually getting here on time, but apparently, I waited a little bit too long in terms of pulling a number this morning.

REP. HURLBURT: That was a very conservative estimate on your part. I want to thank you for your testimony. I do think that maybe there is a place for stakeholder input, and you testified today on the child safe products.

Can I just pull from you your opinion or your thoughts on the Chemical Innovations Institute that one of -- I would consider it a partner bill to what we have going here?

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ANDREW HACKMAN: yeah, I didn't address that specifically, and we don't have a formal position on that. It might surprise some of the advocates. From my perspective, our industry would be supportive of the concept. I think it needs to be improved; 5126 is something, though, that -- as I said, our industry is always looking for the safest substances to use in our -- our products. Having that center that helps and works on innovation would be something that -- allowing there's industry collaboration in that public/private partnership, I think we could be supportive of that. And maybe that's something where we could work together.

I know there was a concern with the committee in terms of resources and there being resources for that institute. I would argue that there would be the same resource requirement for 5130 as there would be for 5126. No state has really, outside of Massachusetts, and of this they've had a long running safe alternatives program at (inaudible) that you've heard about.

But no state has really approached our industry specifically and in the area of consumer products and said let's form an institute to look at safer alternatives, and I think it's something particular -- like I said, we've got 20 members here in the state that I think could be great examples to be engaged in that type of process of finding safer alternatives and evaluating them. So again, in terms of that legislation, we don't have a formal position, but I see more opportunity there in terms of truly helping the industry find safer alternatives.

REP. HURLBURT: Would that satisfy your stakeholder input that you mentioned a few times during your testimony?

ANDREW HACKMAN: I think if we were an active player in 5126 or that instituted, that would be an important factor for us. In terms of stakeholder input on chemical bans, I think that's an element that is sort of separate. We need to have, you know, stakeholder input specifically on that aspect.

REP. HURLBURT: And one of the things that I mentioned to the chair during your testimony was, you know, that you are concerned and that you gave the example of one of -- one of your members talking about their 160 page

inspection or what have you, and it brought to my mind, you know, I believe it was the summer ever 2007 where we had those huge recalls. Was that inspection plan in place prior to those recalls?

ANDREW HACKMAN: Recalls are definitely something that we don't like to see. And the fact that the recalls happened, I hate to say shows that the system worked. Those products were being sold illegally and they were taken back. The system was improved and doubly improved since then. So the 130-page, 160-page -- it may be 160 for some folks, actually, that report is above and beyond what might have been in place in 2007, but the good -- the companies that we represent that are doing the right thing were doing this before 2007 or doing it after that fact.

I can say without a doubt that statute has changed the way toys are produced. Everything that once was a voluntary standard is now mandatory. And we are providing certifications to a level of which you haven't -- hasn't been seen before.

If I may, just a short example, I was talking with a company in Maine around the chemicals program up there, and they were trying to develop a products for L.L.Bean and it was a lobster beanbag toy, and because of the testing costs that are now required federally, L.L.Bean said well give us 60 units, and they couldn't justify the testing costs for those products.

So there's a balance here. I understand protecting safety is the number one concern and there's some distrust in terms of industry policing itself, but I think there needs to be a balance and understanding that some jobs are

at stake here in terms of -- of certifying to a certain level what chemicals may or may not be in a product. So again. Sorry for the long answer to a short question.

REP. HURLBURT: No, I understand that and I appreciate your diligence on it. I think, you know, that you do highlight the point, though, that we need to be nervous about this and that, you know, the industry, you know, didn't do a great job policing itself, then, you know, that came to light in a major way just -- just a short time ago.

So I think it's prudent for the Legislature to be very interested in this sort of thing. But again, I thank you for your testimony and time and I you sat least -- I hope you at least get a decent nights sleep tonight before you fly back home. Have a good one.

ANDREW HACKMAN: I appreciate it.

REP. HURLBURT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR MEYER: Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
Before you go home tonight, put on the UConn women's team. They're playing tonight.

ANDREW HACKMAN: Do what?

REP. MILLER: UConn women are playing tonight.  
Watch them.

ANDREW HACKMAN: All right. Will do.

REP. MILLER: But anyway, you represent 500 members, 20 of which are in Connecticut --

ANDREW HACKMAN: Uh-huh.

REP. MILLER: -- and there are manufacturers -- actually manufactured toys in the United States.

ANDREW HACKMAN: That's correct.

REP. MILLER: How many don't? How many of these are just wholesalers that bring it in from some foreign country?

ANDREW HACKMAN: In terms of bringing product in from another country, all of the products have to meet the same safety standards. Otherwise, the Consumer Products Safety Commission is going to take action against them. And that unfortunately has been what's I think resinated in the media.

In terms of companies that bring products in, for example Hasbro, which is just next door in Rhode Island, they import a number of product from other countries. Lego, which is based here in Connecticut imports products from Europe. So I think just thinking about the countries that the products come from is maybe not the most accurate way to think about safety.

If want to boil it down to facts and figures, about 90 percent of the toys that are sold here in the United States are imported from some other country. Not all China; 90 percent. But there are products that are made here in Connecticut. Melissa & Doug is one of our members that makes products here in the state. So, you know, I think -- thinking about the safety of products should be the focus, not necessarily should we close the borders to all of China's products.

REP. ROY: Is there any other questions?

Representative Lambert.

REP. LAMBERT: Thank you.

I know you have a problem also, and thank you for coming. Sorry for the length of time. But did you have a problem also in being able to react if they put a chemical on a ban, you would already be in production and you spoke about the fact that if we had long-term goals, as you do in your industry, do you want to address that? Because I don't think you did in your testimony.

ANDREW HACKMAN: Yeah, and I think it might have been something that, in terms of time, that was tough to get to. But in terms of long-term goals, you know, our -- our industry sets goals for sustainability and -- and energy use, and I think we could set goals around using greener, safer alternatives. The criteria with which we define those is something we would have to work on, but I think that's something versus an automatic ban for the mere presence of a chemical. It incentivizes industry to move towards safer alternatives.

I'm not sure how you get that into a legislative concept so much. We've wrestled with that in California. They've tried to establish or explore ideas around, okay, in five years, you'll be using 20 percent more green substances in your the products that type of thing. But they really haven't been able to find out how to qualify that. So it's an issue that's a challenging issue for us that we -- that I think would help bring about the seeking safer alternatives quicker.

One thing I do want to reference in terms of

this legislation, it doesn't really consider what's a safer alternative or not. There's no requirement that you prove that the alternative is safer. MTBE was referenced earlier in terms of a chemical that the state was concerned about. Well, MTBE, 20 or 30 years ago was touted as the alternatives for gasoline that made air cleaner.

This legislation really doesn't consider whether or not the alternative is truly safer or not. There's no requirement that you show it's safer: As long as it's not on the list of 2,000 chemicals. You may know nothing about the chemical. Under this bill, as long as you get out of it in three years, it doesn't matter what you're using. So I think this is another reason why this legislation needs some serious consideration. So again, sorry, a roundabout answer to your question, but I wanted to bring that up, too.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other comments or questions from members of the committee?

Seeing none, thank you very much. Annamarie Beaulieu followed by Kim O'Rourke.

ANNAMARIE BEAULIEU: Chairman Meyer, Chairman Roy, distinguished members of the Environment Committee, thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the Connecticut Public Health Association. CPHA is one of 52 affiliates of the American Public Health Association. I am here today in support of House Bill 5130, a Child Safe Products Act and House Bill 5126, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE.

This problem is not new, certainly not today.

We've heard plenty. This committee has worked tirelessly over the last several years to phase out substances such as asbestos, lead and Bisphenol-A. As we know, there is ample research demonstrating the links between these chemicals and numerous chronic diseases including certain cancers, developmental disorders and reproductive health issues, but there are more chemicals. We can't stop with Bisphenol-A. The research indicates that there are other chemicals that are of equal or greater concern that remain in children's products and in consumer products.

We talked a lots about cadmium today, and -- and I know that that's something that is sort of the -- the substance of the year so to speak. But we can't take that approach.

If I can just interject a personal note here, as a mother of four children, when my children were smaller and I bought all the toys and I bought everything, Bisphenol-A wasn't -- nobody talked about it, and they were expose to all of that. So, you know, when my grandchildren are -- it's if I'm fortunate to become a grandparent -- what will they be exposed to that we could have addressed now instead of waiting?

And so we just condition keep waiting for us to have all this evidence. We need to take a precautionary approach when we're talking about -- and there's plenty of evidence there, so I'm not trying it say that there isn't.

We cannot effectively reduce the harm to children's health by phasing out chemicals one at a time. We know too much. We have too much science, too much evidence to do it and to work that slowly. Just to talk a little bit about the costs, which we really didn't

hear much about today, in my written testimony, I have repeated reference to this report that is based on over 100 studies and reports from peer review journals and scientists that talk specifically about the costs associated with the chronic diseases linked to toxic chemicals.

In this report, it's estimated that \$2.3 billion are spent each year on children's medical costs alone due to cancers, asthma and behavioral disorders. And there is due too estimates that 30 percent of childhood asthma is caused by environmental exposures. Childhood cancers including leukemia and brain cancer have increased 20 percent since 1975. These exposures that are causing these cancers are coming in utero and in early childhood. It's estimated that potentially 5 percent of childhood cancers can be attributed to toxins.

Very quickly, I just wanted to speak to House Bill 5126. CPHA also very strongly that supports that in our contact with the business -- members of the business community. A resource such as 5126 would provide them with the information and expertise they need to remain -- to transition to safer alternatives where its feasible and support them in a time where the talk is all about chemicals management and -- and transitioning to safer alternatives. I thank you very much for your time.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any questions or comments for Annamarie?

You've done a great job. Thank you.

ANNAMARIE BEAULIEU: Thank you.

What happens to the cans of latex that go into the garbage? Does it go to incinerators? Do they go to landfills? Where?

KIMBERLY O'ROURKE: Well, if they -- if somebody dries out their paint and it goes -- it goes to a trash energy plant, and then they will hand tell from there.

REP. ROY: So does it go into the furnace or do they separate that and then dispose of it elsewhere.

KIMBERLY O'ROURKE: You know, I imagine it does not burn. You would have to ask one of the trash energy folks what they actually do the cans. But I -- I -- from what I understand, the metal does not burn and they have to pull it out and then it probably ends up at a landfill somewhere.

Thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments from members of the committee?

Kim, thank you. Gretchen Raffa followed by Martin Mador.

GRETCHEN RAFFA: good afternoon, Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Gretchen Raffa, community organizer for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England testifying in support of House Bill 5130, AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS and House Bill 5126.

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England's mission is to protect the right of all

individuals to control their own fertility. And over the past decade, new studies demonstrated that environmental contaminants and exposure to chemicals can have a detrimental effect on one's reproductive health. And as a trusted provider of reproductive healthcare to over 70,000 patients every year, we are committed to educating ourselves and our patients had about the dangers and health risks from exposure to chemicals for women in their families.

Mounting scientific evidence shows that some industrial chemicals acts endocrine disruptors, which can cause serious risks for women's health such as infertility, breast cancer, uterine fibroids, endometriosis and miscarriage. Hazardous chemicals that we use in our everyday products such as cosmetics, personal care products, cleaning products and our environment get into women's bodies, into women's breast milk and in their uterus.

The timing and level of exposure to these chemicals can affects how a woman's body develops and functions. What research confirms is more women are experienced difficulty in conceiving and maintain a pregnancy, which affected 40 percent more women in 2002 than in 1982. The incidents of reported difficulty has also doubled in younger women ages 18 to 25. And there's evidence of a growing trend in the U.S. toward earlier breast development and onset of menstruation in girls.

And studies suggests that endocrine disrupting chemicals, particularly those that mimic estrogen, are an important factor associated with altered puberty timing. Yet, no chemicals are currently regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act because ever

their potential harm to reproduction or development. By other authoritative bodies have listed more than 50 industrial chemicals as reproductive toxins.

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England and those working to promote reproductive justice have long fought for a woman's right to control her reproductive destiny. We have a growing concern about the complexity of a woman's environment, including her physical geography, her race, her class, her access to healthcare or place of employment, just to name a few, can play a debilitating role on her fertility and reproductive health. That's why we've turned our attention to the environmental toxins that are affecting the ability of women to become pregnant, to have a healthy pregnancy and to bear a healthy child.

We feel the time is now to reduce exposure to chemicals for children and women of child bearing age. We urge you to support House Bill 5130 and House Bill 5126. We at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England believe this is an urgent matter of reproductive justice. All women should have the guaranteed right to control her own fertility, bear healthy babies and live in a safe and healthy community.

Thank you so much for your time.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any questions or comments from members of the committee?

GRETCHEN RAFFA: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Seeing none, thank you.

Martin Mador followed by Grace  
Hvasta-Petrarca.

MARTIN MADOR: Good afternoon, members of the  
Committee. I'm Martin Mador. I'm here  
testifying as the volunteer legislative chair  
of the Connecticut Sierra Club. If the -- if  
the sticker doesn't give away why I'm here,  
perhaps my save the children tie will.

It's late in the day. Rather than reading my  
testimony, which is full of fabulous arguments  
for the four bills we're supporting, let me  
just mention we strongly support the paint  
recycling bill, 5122. Sierra is a member of  
the Connecticut Products Stewardship Council.  
We think it's a great bill. We also support  
the recycling bill and you heard quite a bit  
about that from Representative Schofield  
before.

HB 5120

So let me spend the remaining few seconds on  
the few two toxics bills and perhaps I'll  
address some of the issues that I've heard  
raise this afternoon. The federal government  
dropped the ball since TSCA. There's no  
question of this. TSCA was supposed to have  
been an end, a beginning and, in fact, it's  
really been the end. So we feel the highly  
important for the states to take the role here  
in making sure that we're not exposed to these  
toxic chemicals.

HB 5126

HB 5130

Last week in Commerce, Representative Cafero  
said -- and this is a quote -- he would like  
to get government out of the way. I think it  
was an unfortunate comment and I want to make  
it clear that we really feel the exact  
opposite. We think there's a really strong  
role for the government in getting toxic  
issue -- in addressing toxics issues.

The institute to be clear we consider it a gift to industry. It needs to become a trusted partnered industry, which is going to be providing information which will help it stay competitive, which will help it sell products, which will help it keep its own workforce healthy. This proposal was part of the green jobs proposal that the environmental advocates have prepared and forwarded it to legislative leadership. We feel it's that important.

On the issue of combining the two bills that Senator Meyer had discussed earlier in the afternoon, when the federal government converted the CAA to the FAA, many decades ago, they gave a mission to the FAA. The mission was to promote and regulate aviation. This has caused enormous headaches because it's very hard to do both at the same time.

So we feel that the institute is a promotion bill which is going to help industry and help and get it right. The other bill, 5130, is more of a regulation bill. So we don't -- well -- I don't really see a way of combining the two bills, because I think they're very separate functions. One is regulation. The other is to provide assistance and knowledge to -- to industry, and perhaps I'll stop there.

REP. ROY: Thank you. Any questions?

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: Marty, thank you for area advocacy and, and just trying to apply your mind a little bit more on the two -- two bills and how we might associate them in some way. I think -- and you're a very experienced

observer of the state government of Connecticut, and you're familiar with the de-staffing, so to speak, the un-staffing of DEP. And this -- one of these bills, the toxic chemical bill, would put a major responsibility on DEP on an annual basis to do an analysis and identify five chemicals.

Some people have suggested that that would be an improper delegation of the legislators powers, as a matter of fact, but can't -- if we created the chemical institute, why couldn't that be a force in terms of identification?

MARTIN MADOR: Well, as I said, our mission in the institute is -- it will -- it will be a supplier of information to Connecticut industry. It will help industry understand what the toxics issues are. It will help them avoid them. It will help industry be -- be competitive in the global marketplace. I don't know if we want to do anything which was -- which was going to impact the role of the institute to be a trusted partner for -- for industry.

And if you give it any sort of a regulatory role, I think you may be damaging how it would interact with industry. So -- so I would be very cautious about that. Now, your point the DEP being under funded puts me in a very awkward situation, because most of the time, I talk a lot about how the agency is under funded. In fact, it's funded at about one-third the rate of the average environmental agency in the country.

So we have a serious problem here with agency staffing. The agency lost about 7 percent of its workforce in the early retirements, which represented about 19 hundred years of

experience. So we need to rebuild the agency, but we know that's not going to happen for a couple of years. So you've presented an awkward point.

What we hope to do is to rely on the, on the expertise, which other states are providing for us. Other states have published lists of chemicals which have problems. We don't have to do all the research ourselves. I think there are two issues. One of them is figuring out which of the -- are the dangerous chemicals. The other is the interaction between the executive and the legislative branches.

If, in fact, the legislative branch has to have final oversight over here, then yes, it two have to -- whatever list is invoked would have to come back here for some sort of approval. But in terms of learning what the dangers are, a lot of states have already invested in figuring this out. We don't have to reinvent all this. We can go to what has already been established in other states and use what -- what they've already learned, which would make the burden on an agency like DEP or perhaps DPH less than it would be otherwise.

SENATOR MEYER: You know, the bill that would create the institute empowers the institute to do the following: Lines 53, 55, I'm quoting, provide research and technical assistance concerning chemicals of concern to the environment and public health as well as safe alternatives to such chemicals. That's really what we're talking about in the safe products law, safe products bill, and it seems to fit so nicely with the institute, and I, frankly, don't hear you suggesting how we're going to get through this mess for the next two years.

HB 5126

MARTIN MADOR: If you're suggesting I can magically come up with a way of -- of funding additional staff for the DEP, no, unfortunately I don't know how to do that. My concern here is providing technical assistance is a trusted function. It means the people you're providing the assistance to are working together with you cooperatively and they trust you. The other bill is more of a regulatory bill where it's going to be determining which are the chemicals of harm in saying these are the ones which we really need to prohibit. That's a regulatory function.

And again, I'm not sure how you successfully combine the two and keep the trusts that you might establish with the people you're giving advise to. Giving somebody advice and then you say, oh yeah, and by the way, I'm not only going to give you advice, but I'm going to tell you you're into the I not allowed to do something. You then have both the cooperative and an adversarial relationship at the same time, and that's exactly where the FAA found itself, and it's created massive headaches for the agency ever since it was founded. It's -- it's very hard to do both roles with the same resources and the same people.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any --

Representative Lambert.

REP. LAMBERT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

You've heard testimony before that they're afraid like Maine may have like five chemicals and someone else may have five. Is there anyway there could be a regional approach so

that there's no overlapping? I mean, that they pick the five most important chemicals that, you know, was based on the data, not just up in the air? Is there any kind of -- or has there been any kind of a regional approach between the states like the New England states?

MARTIN MADOR: I don't know that. I wish I knew the answer to that, but I don't, and I will endeavor to do some research and have myself or perhaps other members of the coalition provide an answer to that. I think it's an excellent idea. It makes a lot of sense for a region like New England.

Yes, absolutely, although in the end, when it comes down to regulation, the regulations is going to have to be the state government, either the executive or the legislative. But yeah, I think to the extent the region can work cooperatively, it's at everybody's benefit. In terms of sharing information, this's exactly what the institute is proposed to be.

REP. LAMBERT: And then possibly there would be a cost savings also if different states, you know, instead of doing the same work over and over and the same testing.

MARTIN MADOR: Sure, and I think the idea of proposing that we sort of sneak out there on the web late at night and sort of borrow a list from another state is exactly aimed at that.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

There is a national clearing house that the DEP goes through, but what we're proposing here is strictly the chemicals that are, you

know, out there and what's what, and we will work with that national clearing house along with any other states that have done some work.

Thank you, Marty.

I think that's it? Yeah. Thank you.

MARTIN MADOR: Thank you.

REP. ROY: Grace followed by Rafael Podolsky.

GRACE HVASTA PETRARCA: Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environmental Committee, my name is Grace Hvasta Petrarca, and my testimony is in support of House Bill 5126 and House Bill 5130.

I am here representing Good For You Girls, which is based in New Hartford, Connecticut, and I thank you for this opportunities to speak with you about this very important issue.

I am a mother of four girls, a certified ayurvedic practitioner and owner of Good for You Girls, the only 100 percent natural and organic skin care company for girls age nine to 15.

It has been my personal quest for the past eleven years to always provide my family with products that are safe. You would consider mine a green family, one that eats organic foods, uses natural cleaning products for our home and uses only natural organic health and beauty products.

It has been so encouraging to see the growth in the natural foods industry over the past

decades, because more and more people are educating themselves about harmful chemicals and how even trace amounts of harmful chemicals used in food, cosmetics, kitchen utensils, baby toys, carpeting, clothing and many other products over time build up in the body, causing chronic disease and cancers.

The research is overwhelming and I am incensed by companies that continue to knowingly create and manufacture products that are harmful in humans. My training in natural medicine gives me specific insight into how these toxins are stored in the body, and I see first hand the damage to both body and mind caused by the absorption of these toxins.

I consider it my responsibility, as well as my job, to educate my patients so that they may develop healthier habits and make safer choices. Two years ago, I was looking for a natural skin care for my oldest daughter, who is a typical preteen American preteen. Her body was starting to change and she was interested in developing good skin care habits. Of course, she noticed how I took care of my skin and wanted to do the same. I told her I would find something just for her as the products I use are geared towards antiaging.

As I shopped for her, it was quite evident that there was a void in this demographic. Wonderful natural products existed for babies and adults, but nothing for girls. That is why Good for You Girls began.

My business partner and I put our heads together and developed the only 100 percent natural and organic skin care for girls. We have developed a new category within the natural foods industry and are proud to be in

over 200 retail locations nationwide. It is our personal commitment to provide a safe alternative to this demographic and it is our hope that other manufacturers will be inspired to keep the safety and good health of their customers as the primary objective.

We realize that this commitment requires creativity, sacrifice and hard work, but the resulting well-being of the customers in our case girls the nine to 15 is well worth the effort.

Therefore, it should be no surprise that I fully support the passing legislation banning harmful chemicals in products marketed towards children or anyone for that matter as well as establishing green job growth, promoting safe work places and reducing the use of toxic chemicals linked to chronic disease.

REP. ROY: Grace, thank you.

Any questions or comments from members of the Committee?

Seeing none, thank you. And please -- thank you.

GRACE HVASTA PETRARCA: Okay. Thank you.

REP. ROY: Raphael followed by June Lee.

RAPHAEL PODOLSKY: Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, members of the Environment Committee, my name is Raphael Podolsky. I'm an attorney with the Legal Assistance Resource Center in Hartford. We're part of the Legal Aid Programs, and I'm here to speak on House Bill Number 5240 which is the bill that deals with the affordable housing appeals procedure.

because of the money we're spending in the affordable housing courts.

So, thank you.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments from members of the committee?

Seeing none, Raphael, thank you very much.

RAPHAEL PODOLSKY: Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: June Lee followed by Eric Brown.

No June. Eric Brown followed by Carmen Sayez.

ERIC BROWN: Good afternoon, Representative Roy, Senator Meyer, members of the Environment Committee. My name is Eric Brown. I'm on the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, and I certainly appreciate you all sticking around this afternoon.

The hour is late. I will try and be brief. I'm here to provide testimony on three bills. I have submitted written comments by which I hope you've received. Bill 5121, which is the environmental justice bill, I won't say anything as Dr. Mitchell, I'll second his motion to have the bill held this year and just move on from there.

H.B. 5130, which is the child safe products, I know several Legislators have expressed concerns with that bill, and we share those concerns and I'll let my testimony speak for itself on that.

So I want to spend most of my time on 5126, which is the institute at the University of

Connecticut. And say, first of all, CBIA is spending some time with folks down at Yale several years ago, we're pretty excited about the whole issue of green chemistry as are a number of our members, and basically, I think our members are interested and enthusiastic particular about using green alternatives to more traditional chemicals, so as long as they're effective, do the job they need to do, and are reasonably affordable.

So, you know, we would like to see more -- more efforts effort from the state to promote the development of green chemistry, and that involves changing the way chemistry is taught, even at the secondary and postsecondary levels. You have to sort of get that green chemistry culture, otherwise they just keep teaching chemistry the way they always taught chemistry. So that's just sorted of quick background.

On the specific proposal, we are a little concerned about the, I would say, vague nature of the proposal. As we've heard today, I think one can interpret this -- this institute to have a variety of different roles and functions. I agree with the comments of Martin Maydor earlier that, you know, as it's been presented to us, the idea is this would be very much geared towards helping businesses, educating businesses, being a resource for business. And, you know, from that perspective, we -- we are supportive of that concept, but I don't think the bill adequately reflects that both in terms of a mission statement, I think that would have to be stronger as to what the function of it is.

The presence of businesses on the board, which are not included at this point, stronger language about, you know, that this would be

not an advocacy group. Advocacy would not be part of its mission. And I think with those caveats it could develop into something that we could be supportive of. Of course, the funding is going to be an issue.

And my only other comment is I'd be interested in talking with advocates and others about if that was really the mission, and if that's the way it was structured, how much would it overlap with an organization like ConnStep. And perhaps ConnStep doesn't have the expertise that we're talking about here in terms of green chemistry. I don't know. Maybe they do.

If they didn't, would perhaps adding that expertise to them be more efficient than creating a whole new institute? I don't know, but I just sort of posit that out there for thought and later discussion.

So I'll end my comments there. My two minutes are up, and so I'll be happy to answer any questions I can.

REP. ROY: Thank you, Eric.

Any questions for members of the Committee?

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: Eric, I was just looking at the qualifications of the board members.

ERIC BROWN: Yes.

SENATOR MEYER: And you are right. There's no specific mandate that -- that a representative of a business would be involved it with, there are representatives that will likely be businesses when you look through. The

Governor's appointee must have expertise in sustainable business practices, right?

ERIC BROWN: Right.

SENATOR MEYER: And it goes on to describe the qualifications of other people.

ERIC BROWN: Yes.

SENATOR MEYER: But so what you're asking us to do to go forward with this bill is to make more specific reference to business?

ERIC BROWN: Yes, and we can try and be helpful with that and, you know, perhaps a business that has experience in using green chemistry, you know, there's several out there that have made the transition and are using green chemistry now, so you have the benefit of that expertise I think would be good and perhaps we could come up with some other definitional type things like that.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay. We certainly invite you to give us some different language after this. Thanks.

ERIC BROWN: Thanks.

REP. ROY: Thank you.

Any other questions or comments from members of the committee?

Seeing none, thank you, Eric.

ERIC BROWN: Thank you very much.

REP. ROY: Carmen Sayez?

I guess she's gone.



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**TESTIMONY OF ERIC J. BROWN  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL  
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
BEFORE THE  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 1, 2010**

Good afternoon. My name is Eric Brown and I am associate counsel with the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents thousands of businesses of all sizes throughout Connecticut that provide hundreds of thousands of Connecticut citizens with good jobs and good benefits.

CBIA appreciates this opportunity to inform the committee of our concerns with three bills on today's public hearing agenda:

- **H.B. No. 5121 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY STATUTE**

**CBIA opposes this bill**

- **H.B. No. 5126 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**

**CBIA would be pleased to work with the proponents of this bill to better achieve our understanding of its goals but opposes the current version.**

- **H.B. No. 5130 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS.**

**CBIA opposes this bill**



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**H.B. No. 5130 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS**

**CBIA opposes this bill**

This bill seeks to circumvent the legislative process with respect to banning the manufacture or sale of children's products that contain chemicals identified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as being "of high concern to children's health and development due to the likelihood that children will be exposed to [them] . . ." In doing so, the bill reaches well beyond the expertise of the DEP and gives the agency far too much authority to control commerce in Connecticut by dictating what can and can not be manufactured or sold here.

In recent years, the DEP has amply demonstrated its obsession with the pursuit of zero-risk and its lack of concern with the impact of its regulations and other actions on Connecticut's economy. HB-5130 would provide an enormous opportunity for the DEP to substantially expand its authority to unilaterally issue economically-blind standards.

CBIA urges the Environment Committee to reject HB-5130. For additional information on CBIA's perspective on toxics and green chemistry, please see our testimony on HB-5126.



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**H.B. No. 5126 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL  
INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**

**CBIA opposes this bill in its current form**

As more focused is being placed on specific chemicals and their potential impacts on human health and the environment, CBIA believes greater focus should be directed at developing insuring the development of "green" alternatives is happening at a pace at least as rapid as the effort to "ban" the use of these chemicals through legislative action.

These efforts should include realignment of chemistry education in secondary and post-secondary settings, more research, and greater interaction with, and technical assistance to businesses to help the focus priorities, implement the use of alternative chemicals, and insure that such alternative chemicals are effective and affordable for industry.

HB-5126 hints at an approach that could help further these goals. Part of the stated goal of the institute proposed in the bill would be to "provide assistance to businesses, state agencies and nonprofit organizations that seek to utilize safe alternatives to chemicals that are harmful to public health and the environment." However, CBIA has serious concerns that the concept could easily result in an organization that is more interested in identifying chemicals of concern and involving itself in public policy efforts to ban or otherwise legislate those chemicals, all at the expense of some new mandated fee on industry.

CBIA would be interested in participating in discussions with the UCONN health center and businesses about the potential mission, structure and funding for an institute directed at the goals we outlined above. However, HB-5126 appears to be structured to go far beyond this limited mission and we are not supportive of the current language.

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT  
PART 3  
659 – 995**

**2010**



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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Environment Committee  
March 1, 2010

Testimony In Favor of

SB127

HB 5122 AA Establishing a Paint Stewardship Pilot Program  
HB 5126 AA Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut  
HB 5130 AAC Child Safe Products  
HB 5240 AAC Affordable Housing Developments in Environmentally Regulated Areas  
HB 5120 AAC Private and Municipal Recycling, Zoning Ordinances and  
Solid Waste Collection Contracts

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

5122

This bill has been proposed by the Connecticut Product Stewardship Council, of which Sierra is an affiliate member. It is an appropriate bill which provides for collection and recycling of unused paint. Over 740,000 gallons of paint are unused each year, costing towns in excess of half a million dollars in disposal fees. Details of the bill have been negotiated with industry, which is in support, provided the amendments to be offered by the American Coatings Association are adopted. Recycling of the paint will remove it from the municipal solid waste stream, saving the towns money. This bill will help to further the goals of the state's Solid Waste Management Plan. It is consonant with the evolving principle of manufacturer take back and recycling of post-consumer end of life material. Sierra strongly recommends passage, with the ACA amendments.

5126

5126 establishes an Institute at UCONN focused on disseminating information on safer chemicals. This bill is endorsed by member organizations of the Coalition for a Safer Connecticut, of which Sierra is a guiding member. The Institute would work with resources across the country, such as the Interstate Clearinghouse, to accumulate knowledge about non-toxic chemicals. This information would be shared with Connecticut industry. Benefits to state companies include: better competitiveness in the global marketplace; preservation of jobs; improved worker health; reduced worker compensation, OSHA compliance costs and hazardous waste disposal fees; and access to state-of-the-art chemical information. Many markets are becoming closed to products containing toxic chemicals, as the REACH program in Europe provides. Access to this knowledge is vital for state industry to remain competitive and preserve jobs.

The bill establishes the Institute and defines its Board of Directors. It does NOT call for state funding, as this should come from corporate beneficiaries and fee for service arrangements.

The bill is a component of the Green Jobs proposal "Building Connecticut's Economic and Environmental Future" advanced by a coalition of virtually all major environmental organizations in the state.

**5130**

**HB 5130** is one in a series of bills over the past few years aimed at removing toxics from our lives. Sierra believes that the intentional introduction of toxics into our world is an important environmental issue. This bill establishes a procedure for state agencies to identify and prohibit toxic chemicals in children's products. It provides that information readily available from other states be used, thus eliminating the need for Connecticut to conduct its own duplicative research.

Sierra strongly recommends passage of both 5126 and 5130.

**5120**

This is essentially the recycling bill which passed the House last session 141-4, but was not called in the Senate. The bill adds to reporting requirements; adds PETE and HDPE plastics, boxboard, and types of paper as designated material to be recycled; requires separation of recyclables from other solid waste; and provides for municipal collection of recyclables. The bill has similar provisions to the DEP recycling bill, SB 127. Sierra recommends passage.



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**TESTIMONY RE: RAISED BILL 5126  
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**

**Committee on Environment  
March 1, 2010**

**TO:** Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment  
Committee  
**FROM:** Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD; Environmental Health Coordinator,  
Connecticut Nurses' Association

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment  
Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut  
Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in  
Connecticut (CT), representing over 52,000 nurses. I am Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD, a  
nurse with many years of experience in critical care, cardiology, nursing administration  
and most recently, as the Environmental Health Coordinator for CNA. The Connecticut  
Nurses' Association strongly supports H.B. 5126, *An Act Establishing A Chemical  
Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut.*

H.B. 5126 is a win-win for Connecticut citizens and Connecticut industries. With  
increasingly stringent international regulations on chemicals, and a lack of federal law  
addressing this issue, Connecticut industries bear the burden of the need to shift from  
using harmful chemicals in their work processes to safer alternatives in order to reduce  
exposure to workers and to compete in the global marketplace. However, a shift to safer  
alternatives often requires significant research, change in workflows and training, all of  
which require significant expense. The Chemical Innovations Institute will provide much

needed support to state businesses and industry by serving as a "one-stop shopping" resource to arm businesses with research and technical information on safer alternatives. In addition, it will assist with training for businesses on international chemical regulation, assist with chemicals management and coordinate and share information from the Interstate Clearinghouse and other state institutes.

Harmful chemicals are increasingly linked to rising incidence of cancers, birth defects, asthma, diabetes and learning and behavioral disorders. A Chemical Innovations Institute can help protect public health both by assisting industries that use these chemicals for certain work processes but also those businesses that would like to shift to safer products for cleaning and maintenance of their work environments. For example, Connecticut has many health care facilities where employees work in a variety of roles to assure the delivery of high quality patient care. Yet, many of the solutions used to clean the floors, patient rooms and equipment contains toxic chemicals, exposing both the users, other employees and patients to harmful chemicals. Health care facilities, like other industries, have limited capital and resources to research new solutions and train staff in the use of new materials. As a result, exposure to harmful chemicals in our health care facilities, just like other Connecticut businesses and industries, is commonplace. A Chemical Innovations Institute can help to position Connecticut as a national leader, both in reducing chemical exposures and reducing the economic burden of shifting to safer alternatives for Connecticut industries.

I urge your support of H.B. 5126.

Testimony

Environment Committee

March 1, 2010

Tim Morse, Ph.D., Professor, Occupational and Environmental Health Center, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, [tmorse@uchc.edu](mailto:tmorse@uchc.edu)

I am testifying in support of HB 5126 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER.

Chemical policy is in rapid change both nationally and internationally, with significant implications for Connecticut businesses and workers. The European REACH legislation, for example, will restrict the import of products that contain restricted chemicals, and so Connecticut manufacturers need to be aware of the regulations and be able to access safer alternatives to chemicals in order to successfully export products. Similarly, it is likely that U.S. chemical policies, such as the Toxic Substances Control Act and acceptance of the Globally Harmonized System, will be undergoing major changes, and Connecticut employers need to be ahead of those changes in order to remain compliant and competitive. The approach of substituting safer alternatives to toxic substances has very significant benefits to workers and the community in relation to prevention of illness, to the environment in relation to reduced toxic burden, and to employers in relation to access to markets, reduced compliance costs, improved public relations, and reduced liability costs.

A recent Masters project by one of my student in Public Health has underscored the need for resources for Connecticut businesses to move to safer alternatives. We currently have very little information for actual chemical usage by businesses, so we modeled the Connecticut manufacturing sector based on reports in Massachusetts under their Toxic Use Reduction Act. We estimated that there are over 660 million pounds of chemicals used in CT each year, with over 300 million pounds each of carcinogens and reproductive hazards. This exploratory study clearly shows the need for a more detailed understanding of chemical usage in Connecticut, including products that are of high commercial value that may be affected by international and national chemical policy changes, and we anticipate that Bill 5126 will move us forward in gaining that knowledge.

We anticipate that a Chemical Innovations Institute at UConn Health Center will be helpful for the transition to safer alternatives through (1) providing expertise in relation to current and future chemical policy changes through integration with national and international networks, including the Interstate Chemical Clearinghouse, (2) providing training to Connecticut businesses and workers on chemical assessment and evaluation of safer alternatives, (3) providing a linkage to green chemistry efforts to develop safer alternatives, and (4) in helping businesses evaluate the effectiveness of the alternatives.

The Occupational and Environmental Health Center at UConn Health Center has considerable expertise in this area. We have done consulting and training for hundreds of Connecticut businesses, workers, and health and safety professionals on industrial hygiene, chemical evaluation, ergonomics, and healthy workplaces, so we have an in-depth understanding of the business environment.

We have multiple federal grants including a current study on the transition to green cleaning products in state agencies, the characteristics of effective health and safety committees in manufacturing, "Healthy Workplace" interventions combining occupational health with health promotion, the impact of the aging in relation to work exposures on the health of workers, the effects of vibration and ergonomic hazards, working with the "Tools for Schools" effort in relation to indoor air quality in schools and office buildings, tracking and under-reporting of occupational diseases, and many others.

We have had major conferences in the area, including a series of conferences and trainings on an innovative method of qualitative chemical assessment in companies known as "Control Banding" and a large conference on Green Chemistry and Safer Alternatives which was co-sponsored by business, labor, and environmental groups.

We have done extensive training of occupational health professionals including occupational medicine physicians, occupational health psychology doctoral students, industrial hygienists, safety engineers, and ergonomists. We have extensive, long-term, relationships with the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, which is at the center of innovation in relation to safer alternatives and international chemical policy research through the Toxics Use Reduction Institute and other programs.

We believe that Bill 5126 can be instrumental in moving these initiatives forward by raising visibility, establishment of a high-profile Advisory Board, and giving state recognition to these endeavors. These should be very helpful in attracting additional grants, foundation support, and business support to expanding the capability of the current activities, and allowing Connecticut to have a second major resource to complement the recently-established Yale Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering.

We recognize that the budget situation for Connecticut government is such that funding is not available to assist in this effort. We also respectfully request that any final language of the bill keep intact the language currently incorporated in the bill, specifically Sections 1 (h) and (i); that do not require UConn Health Center to undertake any duty of the institute if funding is insufficient to pay for the initial and ongoing expenses of the institute through the external funding sources that we will be soliciting. While we expect to be successful in attracting outside funding, UConn does not have the resources to perform the functions of the bill until such funding is in place.

In conclusion, we believe Connecticut is well-positioned to be a national leader in the promotion of safer alternatives to toxic substances, which will be beneficial to businesses, workers, the community, and the environment. UConn Health Center has considerable experience in both working with business and in the understanding of policy developments and training needs, and is well positioned to become a valuable resource in the effort. We expect that Bill 5126 will facilitate this expansion by establishing a formally recognized Institute which should help to attract external funding and resources, by establishing a Board structure that will facilitate communications with the important constituent groups and help to guide productive efforts, and by establishing a framework for national and international networking to benefit Connecticut.

 **AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION.**  
IN CONNECTICUT



**Testimony of the American Lung Association in Connecticut in Support of Raised House Bill No. 5126, An Act Establishing A Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut and Raised House Bill 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products**

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Jeffrey T. Stein, CFP (Avon)

John Victory (Farmington)

John J. Votto, DO (New Britain)

March 1, 2010

Environment Committee  
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee:

The American Lung Association in Connecticut submits written testimony in strong support of Raised House Bill No. 5216, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut and House Bill 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products that would help reduce toxic chemicals in workplaces and products designed for children.

The Lung Association is concerned about this issue because asthma, the most common childhood chronic disease, is one of the chronic conditions that have been linked with exposure to toxic chemicals. The doubling of asthma rates over the past twenty years has prompted a great deal of new research that examines the role that chemicals and other environmental risk factors may play in this trend. Genetics cannot explain such a rapid rise over such a short period of time, and a large body of evidence from occupational and epidemiological studies documents that hundreds of chemicals can cause asthma in individuals previously free of the disease. Overall, about **30% of childhood asthma is now attributed to toxic chemicals.**<sup>1</sup> Certain chemicals can also place asthma patients at greater risk for subsequent attacks.<sup>2, 3</sup> Two of the most frequently cited chemical risk factors include formaldehyde (often in particle board, personal care products), phthalates (used to soften plastics and as an ingredient in perfumes, soaps, and other personal care products). Elevates risks have also been associated with the use of certain cleaning chemicals, exposure to carpet and textile wall paper adhesives.



A Chemical Innovations Institute could help make Connecticut workplaces safer, and could help improve lung health for workers who are currently exposed to toxic substances as part of their job. And phasing out the most highly toxic substances from children's products would help to reduce the exposures of our youngest residents, and also promote safer environments at the facilities where those products are being made and in the communities where they are disposed of.

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for its leadership on this important public health issue, and I urge you to quickly pass these two bills.

Sincerely,

Dawn Mays-Hardy, MS  
CT Director Health Promotion and Public Policy  
American Lung Association in Connecticut

1. Brody, Charlotte, et al, "The Health Case for Reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act," <http://healthreport.saferchemicals.org/> (accessed Feb 22, 2009).
2. Jean-Luc Malo and Mora Chan-Yeung, "Appendix: Agents Causing Occupational Asthma with Key References," *Asthma in the Workplace, Third Edition*, (New York: Taylor & Francis, 2006).
3. Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics, "AOEC Exposure Codes," <http://www.apec.org/aoeccode.htm> (accessed September 1, 2009).

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**TESTIMONY OF**  
**CONNECTICUT PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**  
**REGARDING H.B. 5126**  
**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**  
**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT**  
**March 1, 2010**

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and members of the Environment Committee, my name is Daniel Csuka. I am a second year law student at the University of Connecticut School of Law, and I am here today as an intern with the Connecticut Public Health Association. The Connecticut Public Health Association is pleased to endorse House Bill No. 5126, which would establish a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

Most people cannot claim to have any direct evidence of being personally affected by the toxic chemicals present in the Connecticut environment, but studies suggest it is likely, and this disconnect is at the heart of the problem. For example, toxic chemicals have been associated with numerous reproductive health and fertility problems which are often devastating and emotionally taxing. Over the years, among other things, there has been a 40% increase in women reporting difficulty conceiving,<sup>1</sup> a significant decline in testosterone in men which cannot be explained by lifestyle factors or an increase in age,<sup>2</sup> and a decline in the sperm counts of men in multiple countries.<sup>3</sup> These days one would be hard-pressed to find someone who doesn't know even one person who has had trouble conceiving. It is hard for me to read these statistics and not question whether the increasing number of couples experiencing mental and emotional anguish is a result of an increase in exposure to chemicals.

As background, the federal law designed to regulate the manufacture and use of toxic chemicals has not been updated in over 30 years,<sup>4</sup> and as a result the EPA is able to require testing on only 200 of more than 30,000 chemicals produced and used in the United States.<sup>5</sup> A recently published report looked at numerous peer-reviewed articles and found overwhelming evidence suggesting that chemical exposures have contributed significantly to the rise in many chronic diseases.<sup>6</sup> It noted that "estimates of the proportion of the disease burden that can be attributed to chemicals vary widely, ranging from 1% of all disease to 5% of childhood cancer to 10% of

<sup>1</sup> Anjani Chandra & Elizabeth Hervey Stephen, *Impaired Fecundity in the United States: 1982-1995*, 30 FAMILY PLANNING PERSPECTIVES 34 (1998).

<sup>2</sup> Thomas G. Travison, et al., *A Population-Level Decline in Serum Testosterone Levels in American Men*, 92 J. OF CLIN. ENDOCRINOLOGY & METABOLISM (2007).

<sup>3</sup> Shanna Swan, Eric P. Elkin, & Laura Fenster, *The Question of Declining Sperm Density Revisited: An Analysis of 101 Studies Published 1934-1996*, 108 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVES 961 (2000).

<sup>4</sup> Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, 15 U.S.C. § 2601 et seq. (1976).

<sup>5</sup> Testimony of Lisa P. Jackson (Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) before the Committee on Environment and Public Works 3 (Dec. 2, 2009), available at [http://www.epa.gov/ocir/hearings/testimony/111\\_2009\\_2010/2009\\_1202\\_lpj.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/ocir/hearings/testimony/111_2009_2010/2009_1202_lpj.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, *A Health Case for Reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act* (2010), available at <http://healthreport.saferchemicals.org/>.

diabetes, Parkinson's disease, and neurodevelopmental deficits to 30% of childhood asthma."<sup>7</sup> (*internal citations omitted*) While the federal government will have to take steps to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, states cannot rely on this to happen any time soon and must begin to combat the prevalence of these deadly chemicals.

A Chemical Innovations Institute can be expected to benefit the state and its citizens in a myriad of ways. **First**, it will enable Connecticut to both contribute to and tap into similar programs in other states so that we may all share valuable resources while working towards mutual goals. The Toxic Use Reduction Institute at the University of Massachusetts (TURI) is one of these programs, and has experienced enormous success. One paper found that TURI "helped industry reduce the use of toxic chemicals by 40%, byproduct waste by 58%, and toxic emissions by 80%."<sup>8</sup> **Second**, the Institute would help businesses save money through the adoption of more efficient and safer processes that enable them to compete in markets like that of Europe with more stringent chemicals regulations. The same paper remarks that TURI saved companies a total of \$14 million so far.<sup>9</sup> **Third**, the most obvious benefit would be a reduction in health care costs associated with chronic diseases. Beginning with the Institute, if such programs lead to even a .1% reduction of health care costs nationally, direct medical savings in Connecticut would exceed \$50 million each year.<sup>10</sup> This sum does not include the many other kinds of savings specific to individuals, such as those raising children with severe learning disabilities. **Fourth**, it would generate safe, green jobs. **Fifth**, and most importantly, the Institute would do all of these things without requiring the state to put forth any money at all. Even if the federal government doesn't provide money for the project, there are many other sources of funding which could be explored, including the Donaghue Foundation, the UConn Foundation, outreach to businesses that would benefit most, and the federal Green Jobs Initiative.

For the above reasons, the Connecticut Public Health Association supports House Bill No. 5126, and recommends the development of a Chemical Innovations Institute so that Connecticut may become a pioneer in the field of toxic chemical reduction and a new, greener economy.

CPHA wishes to thank the Committee for its invaluable leadership in addressing environmental issues as they relate to the public health needs of Connecticut's citizens. I appreciate the opportunity to address these issues and am happy to answer any questions you might have.

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<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>8</sup> Beverley Thorpe & Mark Rossi, Louisville Charter for Safer Chemicals, Require Safer Substitutes and Solutions (2005), available at <http://www.louisvillecharter.org/paper.substitutes.shtml>.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 5.

<sup>10</sup> Press Release, Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut, Moving Beyond Toxic Chemical "Whac-A-Mole," Jan. 21, 2010, available at [http://safehealthyct.org/documents/Health\\_report\\_release\\_1\\_21\\_10.pdf](http://safehealthyct.org/documents/Health_report_release_1_21_10.pdf).



# CLEAN WATER ACTION

645 Farmington Avenue, Hartford CT 06105

Written Testimony of Sarah Uhl, Environmental Health Coordinator  
On behalf of Clean Water Action  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010

**Testimony in Support of HB 5130 "AAC Child Safe Products" and  
HB 5126 "AA Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of  
Connecticut"**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of House Bills 5130 and 5126. My name is Sarah Uhl, and I am the Environmental Health Coordinator for Clean Water Action in Connecticut. Clean Water Action is a non-profit organization with one million members nationwide and over 20,000 members in Connecticut. Our Hartford-based staff works with local groups and citizen leaders around the state on issues affecting our health, environment, and quality of life.

Clean Water Action sincerely appreciates the Environment Committee's leadership on environmental health issues. Connecticut has received national recognition for leading the way toward safer consumer products and fewer toxic chemicals, and the two bills on which I provide testimony today would set us on a path toward comprehensive solutions. Please refer to the testimony of the Connecticut Public Health Association and Connecticut Nurses' Association for information about the problem of toxic chemicals, or visit <http://healthreport.saferchemicals.org/>.

House Bill 5130 would phase out the most toxic substances from children's products. The bill would make Connecticut one of four states that are implementing modernized, health-protective approaches to chemicals management (the others being Maine, Washington, and California). It would enable the Connecticut DEP to adopt and annually amend a list of priority chemicals of high concern that would then be slowly phased out of products for our most vulnerable residents: children. Chemicals on the list for more than a few years would be phased out of children's products unless the manufacturer received a time-limited waiver from the Department of Consumer Protection due to a lack of alternatives. Maine and Washington are in the final stages of publishing well-synchronized lists of this type. Both states have already produced larger "Chemicals of High Concern" lists, which identify more than 1,400 of the most toxic chemicals currently allowed in consumer products. Maine's Chemicals of High Concern List can be found here: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/oc/safechem/highconcern/>

Maine's short list of the most toxic chemicals in children's products is expected to be published in the next 5-6 months. Washington's Department of Ecology has also published a draft list of 66 chemicals of concern in children's products. Manufacturers will be required to report to the state if their products contain any of these chemicals:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/cspa/pdf/ChemicalReportingList.pdf>

Since Connecticut has access to these lists and the rationales and scientific evidence used by the toxicologists who produced them, our state agencies could easily move forward with selecting some of the most dangerous chemicals that are found in children's products. The Connecticut DEP already participates in the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse, which is in the final stages of developing an on-line "wiki" to house and organize lists of toxic chemicals generated by authoritative government bodies in the U.S. and around the world. We can capitalize on the research that has already been done and move forward with a process that would help reduce the need for individual bills to ban specific chemicals each year.

Although the DEP participates in the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse, Clean Water Action recognizes that it may be more appropriate for the Department of Public Health to be the lead agency for the adoption of a Priority Chemicals of High Concern List, in consultation with the DEP. The Department of Public Health has toxicologists on staff familiar with the listing processes of other states and the efforts of the Interstate Clearinghouse, and so might be a better home for this part of the legislation.

House Bill 5126 would establish a **Chemical Innovations Institute** to foster green job growth, promote safe workplaces, and reduce the use of toxic chemicals. The bill would establish the mission and Board of Directors of the Institute, and enable fundraising and fee-for-service activities without requiring the State to put forth any money. With increasingly stringent chemical regulations being implemented in other countries, we see this as an economic development opportunity to make Connecticut a leader on green chemistry innovation and clean technologies. Along with the Interstate Clearinghouse, a Chemical Innovations Institute would give Connecticut access to cutting-edge safer alternatives information from other states and around the world, so that we grow a safer and stronger state economy.

The Institute would:

- Keep businesses up-to-date on international and national chemical policy changes, which would help with compliance and ensure access to international markets for Connecticut-manufactured products
- Train businesses in evaluating chemicals for safer alternatives, which would help businesses market products as green and avoid public embarrassment from having toxics in consumer products
- Increase the use of safer alternatives that protect workers, consumers, and the environment

The Institute would also be able to work collaboratively with the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) in MA, which focuses on safer alternatives to cleaning chemicals and solvents, and New York's Pollution Prevention Program, headquartered at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Connecticut's Institute could work with the business community to identify a key area of chemical usage on which to focus that would complement rather than duplicate efforts in our neighboring states.

Substituting safer alternatives for toxins can also help businesses save money through reduced worker compensation, OSHA compliance costs and hazardous waste disposal fees. Within 10 years of starting, TURI helped Massachusetts industry save \$14 million while reducing the use of toxic chemicals by 40%, byproduct waste by 58%, and toxic emissions by 80% (Thorpe and Rossi, 2005).

Clean Water Action strongly supports this legislation because it would help make fundraising efforts for the Institute more successful. Contributions from private foundations, federal grant programs, individuals and corporations could be pooled to fund the Institute's operations. If adequate funds were not available, the University of Connecticut would not have any obligation to establish or maintain the functions of the Institute.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of House Bills 5130 and 5126.  
Sincerely,



Sarah Uhl  
Environmental Health Coordinator, Clean Water Action  
645 Farmington Ave, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Hartford CT 06105 / suhl@cleanwater.org / 860-232-6232 (office)

Thorpe, Beverly and Rossi, Mark. (2005) Background Paper #1: Require Safer Substitutions and Solutions. Louisville Charter for safer chemicals. <http://www.louisvillecharter.org/paper.substitutes.shtml>



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Written Testimony of Christopher Phelps  
 Environment Connecticut Program Director

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee

Monday, March 1, 2010

**Supporting Raised House Bill 5126, An Act Establishing A Chemical Innovations Institute At The University Of Connecticut.**

Representative Roy, Senator Meyer, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of Environment Connecticut, I am submitting this testimony supporting Raised HB 5126. Environment Connecticut is a statewide, member-supported non-profit environmental advocacy organization.

The prevalence of toxic chemicals in our environment has direct negative effects on wildlife, water and air quality, and human health. This legislation would create an Institute at UConn that would position our state to create public-private partnerships aimed at reducing the use of toxic chemicals in commerce and industry. Such an institute would provide substantial, benefits to Connecticut's environment, public health and economic competitiveness.

Public-private partnerships to identify and implement less toxic alternatives to chemicals currently used by Connecticut businesses can increase the state's economic competitiveness by reducing costs associated with, among other areas, regulatory compliance in the handling and use of toxic chemicals.

Reducing the use of toxic chemicals by the state's business community would cut toxic pollution released into the state's waterways, air and landscape. This would have lasting benefits for Connecticut's wildlife, public health and quality of life in every community statewide.

The public-private partnership envisioned by this legislation is not without precedent. Massachusetts has had a similar institute operating for 20 years. (The Toxic Use Reduction Institute.) I also wish to point out to the committee that this legislation is drafted to ensure that such an Institute established at UConn would be funded through resources *other than state resources*. Section 1(i) of the bill specifically protects the university from having to divert scarce resources to fund the institute should other private, state or federal funds prove unavailable.

*Environment Connecticut is a non-profit, member-supported environmental advocacy organization working for clean air, clean water and open spaces.*  
[www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org](http://www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org) / [www.facebook.com/EnvironmentConnecticut](http://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentConnecticut)

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony in support of Raised HB 5126. On behalf of Environment Connecticut, I urge you to support this legislation protecting our state's water, air and public health.

Sincerely,

Christopher Phelps  
Program Director  
Environment Connecticut



To: Environment Committee

Subject: Support for RHB- 5126 Establishing a Chemicals Innovation Institute

There is growing public demand for full disclosure of all chemical constituents in consumer products and elimination of all unsafe chemicals. REACH has changed the game by shifting the burden of proof to manufacturers. Previously, regulators had to establish unacceptable risks in order to impose regulatory controls. Manufacturers now have to demonstrate that a substance is safe to humans and the environment during normal use or reasonable misuse. Body burden studies trigger strong emotional reactions. No chemical is considered acceptable when found in breast milk. Advocacy groups are developing lists of unsafe chemicals that should be substituted immediately- e.g 356 substances of very high concern (SVHC) on the SIN list of the International Chemical Secretariat (<http://www.chemsec.org/list/about-sin>.)

At the same time, many companies see the strong public demand for more effective chemical management as a market opportunity. Clorox has launched a new product line targeted at people willing to pay for safer, healthier cleaners. SC Johnson is actively working to inform consumers about chemicals in products to build trust and brand loyalty. California has launched a broad green chemistry initiative to create innovative products with inherently safer chemicals that is expected to provide numerous health benefits while improving the competitive position of state businesses.

Regardless of what CT does, other regulatory regimes are moving forward with chemicals policy reforms. These requirements will impact CT businesses. Many of the proposed bans derive from toxic materials in consumer products, and are extended to all products. This can be challenging for precision manufacturing applications, where engineered materials are critical to product safety and performance specifications. Impacts on CT jobs could be amplified. Precision manufactured products often require special surface treatment to meet performance requirements for heat, wear, corrosion, etc. These processes often rely on chemicals with dangerous properties that must be managed with care. Precision manufacturers will prefer to locate their facilities close to treatment companies to reduce the cycle time of sending parts out for coatings. Failure to invest in green chemistry or safer alternatives could drive both the surface treatment companies and their customers from the state to regimes.

The Chemicals Innovation Institute could be a valuable resource to aid CT businesses in addressing emerging requirements for substituting dangerous chemicals. High technology applications often face expensive qualification testing to satisfy safety codes or validates technical performance, e.g. thermal creep properties. Finding cost effective ways for CT business to collaborate on the identification and qualification of safer alternatives could be an important roles for the institute. A central resource for monitoring regulatory developments in other states and countries and facilitating technology transfer among CT businesses would also be a useful role. It is common that safer alternatives require more



sophisticated and disciplined manufacturing processes, which will require more highly skilled labor. Thus, education is yet another important role for the institute, and this includes public education to build support for the policies it will take to promote a safe and healthy CT.

Perhaps the most significant benefit of establishing the institute is to send a clear signal that the common assumption that environmental protection costs jobs or impedes economic development is wrong-headed. Increasingly, success in global market will depend on economic efficiency *and* environmental excellence. This is especially important in high cost areas, such as CT. This kind of investment to promote an innovative and productive workforce is the only way to preserve CT manufacturing jobs.

Respectfully yours,

Thomas Swarr  
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Written testimony of Connecticut Employees Union Independent, SEIU Local 511, before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010, Testimony in Support of: **HB 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut**

Connecticut Employees Union Independent represents close to 5000 workers who work for the State of Connecticut in maintenance and trade positions at the Department of Transportation, the State Universities and other agencies and institutions. We support the passage of HB 5126 because it will help promote safe workplaces for our members. It is our belief that having a Chemical Innovations Institute will help reduce the use of toxic chemicals that are increasingly linked to the incidence of chronic diseases.

Our Union is the community partner working with researchers at UConn Health Center in Farmington. This four year grant involves a study of cleaning products in use by our members at a number of State institutions. The study will look at the effect of the use of green cleaning and other types of cleaning products on workers' health. The project will also identify best practices. This project is an example of the type of work that an Institute would support.

A Chemical Innovations Institute will be a valuable resource for promoting workers' health.

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University of Connecticut Health Center  
*Office of the Vice President for Health Affairs* ✓

TESTIMONY

Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.

Environment Committee

March 1, 2010

Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.

Vice President for Health Affairs  
 Dean, School of Medicine

Albert & Wilda Van Dusen  
 Chair in Academic Medicine

Distinguished Professor of  
 Orthopaedic Surgery and  
 Chemical, Materials and  
 Biomolecular Engineering

**HB 5126 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE  
 UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding **HB 5126 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER.**

The UConn Health Center (UHC) is gratified that the General Assembly, other state agencies, non profits, industry experts and business are turning to the UHC to establish a Chemical Innovations Institute. With our expert staff, we expect the provisions of the bill can be attained and that with the creation of the Institute, the State will be in a position to effectively review chemical usage, worker exposures and alternatives to toxics in the workplace and the consumer market. We look forward to being a useful resource to industry in this effort.

As all other state agencies, the UHC is facing financial challenges. There are no resources that could be assigned or reassigned to this mandate and it would require new and ongoing funding to establish and maintain this initiative. In order to implement the mandates in the bill, it will require additional resources, resources the UHC does not have. It is essential that the language as drafted in Section 1 (h) and (i) be included in any bill going forward. The language reads:

*(h) The board shall seek federal funds for the administration of the institute. In addition, The University of Connecticut Health Center may seek funding for the institute from nongovernmental foundations, private citizens, corporations and other government entities. In the event that the board determines that adequate funds exist, the institute may establish technical assistance grants to businesses and nonprofit organizations to assist such businesses and nonprofit organizations in transitioning to the use of safer chemical alternatives.*

*(i) The University of Connecticut Health Center shall not be required to undertake any duty of the institute if federal, state and private funds, in the aggregate, are insufficient to pay for the initial and ongoing expenses of the institute.*

We request that this language remain intact throughout the process. I understand that our staff will work to secure federal and other funding sources to meet the requirements of the bill, should it become law.

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

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 email: Laurencin@uchc.edu

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and thank you for your attention.

Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee  
 March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 Testimony of Joyce Acebo~Raguskus,  
 174 Eastern Parkway, Milford, CT  
 Chair Diesel Clean-up, Environmental Concerns Coalition,  
 Coalition for A Safe & Healthy Connecticut

**In support of HB 5130 The Child Safe Products Act to protect children from the chemicals of highest concern in toys and other products designed for their use.  
 In support of HB 5126 An Act Establishing A Chemical Innovations Institute.**

I'm sure most of us at some point have gotten lost in a toy department walking up and down the colorful isles to try to reach for the most enticing toy to bring joy to our little ones, and, I'm sure most CT consumers trust and assume that if a toy or child product has made it to the shelves, it has also made it through stringent objective testing and contains NO chemicals hazardous to the health of our children. To boot, there are no RED FLAGS waving through the rows and rows confirming even further this assumption. Unfortunately this thinking is faulty. Many such products are laced with chemical toxins.

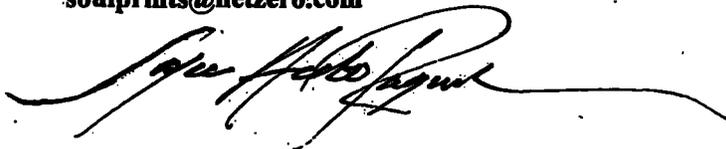
Like Bisphenol-A, consuming cadmium differs from eating carrots. Mercury, bromine, chlorine(PVC) and arsenic are common ingredients in children's products. Where is accountability and responsibility?

We "kicked the bottle," the BPA bottle last session, the poisoning leaching fields, contaminating the bodies and brains of infants and children. Attny. General Blumenthal kicked them right of shelves in CT, and passed one of the strongest BPA bills in the nation and globally, thanks to your support. This is the tip of the Toxic Chemical Iceberg, however! We've secured some hatches, but, toxic chemicals continue to swim in the blood streams of our little ones. Toxic toys and products are waiting on shelves and placed in vulnerable hands and mouths to be swallowed up, altering hormones and causing distress as we speak until we take responsibility and say STOP! Dr. Mark Mitchell, Pres. Of CT Coalition for Environmental Justice supports CT leadership to phase out toxic chemicals to protect public health, however, comprehensive state and federal reform is needed, along with Dr. Denise McBride, Dir., Milford Health Dept., and Dr. Baum, head of Toxicology, Yale Pediatrics.

**The Child Safe Product Act, HB 5130 will help protect children from the chemicals of highest concern in toys and other products for their use. HB5126, establishing CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE is a home for national and global information to assist Business, agencies and non-profit organizations, to distinguish HIGH PRIORITY TOXINS FOR PHASING OUT, access toxic alternatives, produce clean/green isles of toys and children's products, and deliver HIGH STANDARDS OF REGULATIONS for our highest, our children. We need to walk the isles with Responsibility, Reassurance and Joy.  
HB 5130 AND HB 5126 ARE THE BASIC INGREDIANTS FOR BUILDING HEALTHY MINDS AND BODIES.**

Thank you for all that you do and this opportunity.

Joyce Acebo~Raguskus  
 soulprints@netzero.com



Written Testimony of Pamela Puchalski, Connecticut Council on Occupational Safety and Health (ConnectiCOSH), Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010, Testimony in Support of HB 5126 and HB 5130

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Pamela Puchalski and I am the Coordinator for ConnectiCOSH's Safer Chemicals in the Workplace Campaign that focuses on chemical policy reform here in Connecticut. We appreciate that the Environment Committee is considering policies that would promote safer, greener chemicals in the workplace and the home.

Our organization strongly supports HB 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut. We believe that the proposed institute would help make Connecticut businesses more competitive on a global and national level while offering more protection for workers, consumers and the environment from hazardous chemicals. Although our written testimony is primarily focused on HB 5126, we also support HB 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products, because efforts to prioritize and list the most toxic chemicals raises awareness about the types of substances that we should move away from as a society and can particularly help to reduce worker exposure at facilities where children's products are manufactured.

In the recent past, modern technology has dramatically changed the landscape of our workplace, our homes and our environment. More than 80,000 synthetic chemicals have been produced for use in the United States since World War II. Only a small number of these have been adequately tested for their potential impact on the workers who use them and the consumers who purchase products containing them. Workers who regularly come in contact with dangerous substances and who therefore receive a higher dose than the general public, bear a disproportionate share of the adverse impacts of products made with toxic chemicals. A conservatively estimated 50,000 - 60,000 deaths occur in our country each year due to occupational toxic chemical exposures and other occupational illnesses. (Leigh, et al, 2000; NIOSH; Steenland, et al, 2003).

OSHA has adopted workplace exposure limits for approximately 7% of chemicals used in the U.S. in high volume and the U.S. has only phased out five substances out of the approximately 80,000 in commerce. At our annual convention in the fall, then Acting Deputy Secretary of OSHA Jordan Barab addressed the need for chemical policy reform but also reiterated that Fed OSHA could only do so much because of so many other pressing health and safety issues in the workplace. This brings us to why a Chemical Innovations Institute would be of benefit to Connecticut and its businesses.

Over 200 diseases and disorders are now linked to toxins in our everyday environments. Toxic chemicals and heavy metals are widely used in products and industry, and threaten health and child development. Replacing toxic chemicals with safer alternatives can reduce the number of people who develop cancer, learning disabilities, reproductive and neurodegenerative disorders and other health issues. In Connecticut, one of the largest occupational epidemiology studies in the US is currently assessing the links between chemical exposures in the workplace and a rare form of brain cancer.

A few years ago, a manufacturing company here in Connecticut found out that some of its retirees were going blind within a few years of retiring. Upon further investigation, it was determined that one of the chemicals used in the final degreasing processes was causing the blindness. After much research and hundreds of thousands of dollars later, the company was able to substitute a safer alternative for that particular chemical. In a similar situation, but with the establishment of a Chemical Innovations Institute, the Institute could have provided the research and subsequent data more quickly and at a much lower fee than the company ultimately paid. This company was very financially solvent and was able to support the change while maintaining production, but there are others out there that do not have the resources to pay for outside researchers. The Chemical Innovations Institute would also be set up to collaborate with similar institutions in other states and nations thereby expanding their data base on a regional, national and even global level.

Safer alternatives to toxic chemicals exist in some of our workplaces now, including cleaning agents, degreasers, metal working fluids, metals, and plasticizers. Most recently, 200 US chemical plants have added safer technologies to eliminate poison gas releases to workers and communities. The European Union has restricted toxic chemicals in electronics, cosmetics and other products and adopted comprehensive chemical safety requirements (REACH) and over 30% of Connecticut's trade is with the European Union's member states. Innovation is good for business and can help stimulate economic growth through the design and production of safer products. Companies that innovate can compete internationally, particularly with the European Union which has modernized its toxic policies

ConnectiCOSH promotes safer chemicals, safer products, and safer jobs. We need legislators to do the same. We hope you will take action to make Connecticut a leader in reducing exposure to toxic chemicals for our children, workers, general public and the environment by voting for House Bill 5126 and House Bill 5130.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Pamela Puchalski

# ConnectiCOSH

683 North Mountain Road · Newington, CT 06111 · (860) 953-COSH (2674) · Fax (860) 953-1038  
pamela.ctcosh@snet.net

Written Testimony of Ann Berman, Environmental Concerns  
Coalition, ECC Before the Connecticut General Assembly  
Environment Committee, March 1, 2010, Testimony in Support of  
the Child Safe Products Act: HB 5130 and an Act Establishing a  
Chemical Innovations Institute: HB 5126.

Thank you for this opportunity to support these bills. In my day we fortunately did not have all these plastic toys and plastic nursing bottles to worry about. We did have fewer toys to chew and play with, but they must have been reasonably non-toxic, as our generation did not have these high numbers of asthma, learning disabilities and cancers.

It has been said that the present generation of children will not enjoy the same longevity as my generation because of all the toxic chemicals they have been exposed to from birth, including in utero to present day. Many newborns who have been tested, show high body burden counts, which are inherited from their mothers and then only to be exposed to our modern anti-bacterial soaps, plastics, bottles, toys, medical supplies, tubes, cleaning supplies, furniture, rugs and you name it. What a welcome we are giving our newborns into this twenty-first century with the highest and most sophisticated medical practices and medicines since man inhabited the earth.

It is time that we are accountable for these toxic substances. It is time to have a warehouse of all these toxic chemicals that are in too many products, too many to list, that can be accessed by doctors, parents, retailers, whom ever needs to know. It is time to acknowledge that most people believe that if it is on the market it has been approved by the government and that it is safe. The new book *Slow Death by Rubber Duck, The Secret Danger of Everyday Things*, tells much of the story and the title tells it all. I recently exhibited with NOFA, the ECC's Freedom Lawn initiative on organic land care, at the Hartford Flower Show, and experienced especially these youngsters, young people, and yes landscapers who were seeking out my bumper sticker that said, "Pesticides Kill: Are you risking a child, pet.... For "THE PERFECT LAWN"? As they were picking it up, they said, "This tells it all." The young people are getting it and they will be on our tails if these bills are not passed.

"Please It's Time" It is time to recognize this is a loud wakeup call to all those chemical companies, pharmaceuticals and manufacturers that produce products that they know contain harmful substances that can leach out into the environment into human body and animals, that they are to be held accountable and responsible for any ill effects. It is time to have this special place that of a Chemical Innovations Institute to keep us informed.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Submitted by,  
Ann Berman   
77 Pelham St.  
Milford, CT 06460

✓

**Written Testimony of Moses Boone  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee  
March 1, 2010.**

Testimony in Support of:  
**House Bill 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the  
University of Connecticut;**  
**House Bill 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products**

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and honorable members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Moses Boone and I am a resident of new Haven.

What we do not know can hurt, maim and kill us. I am a product of my environment and therefore I am what I eat, drink and breathe. I am the father of two lovely daughters and the world has become an inhospitable place to bring children into and to raise them. Unfortunately we have no other choice because this is the only planet we know that can sustain life.

As a parent I can never have too much information as to how I can make the world safer for my daughters and their offspring. That is why I have chosen to commit my energies to doing everything possible to make the world as safe as possible through knowledge, engagement and advocacy as any and all things which reduce the quality and security of infants who cannot protect themselves from harm.

I support passage of:

**HB 5126 \*\*An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the  
University of Connecticut\*\* and**

**HB 5130 \*\*An Act Concerning Child Safe Products\*\***

and if you have children or expect to have some you will also feel the necessity to protect our future generations.

Thank you,  
Moses Boone

40 Stimson Rd  
New Haven Ct 06511

Written Testimony of Martha Kelly of 57 Curtiss Street, Hartford, and  
Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010.

Testimony in Support of:  
House Bill 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University  
of Connecticut;  
House Bill 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and honorable members of the Environment  
Committee,

My name is Martha Kelly and I am a member of the Connecticut Coalition for  
Environmental Justice, a group that works to protect the health of some of the most  
vulnerable populations, the urban residents, the poor, and people of color.

I am in writing because I strongly support HB 5126, An Act Establishing a  
Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut and HB 5130, An  
Act Concerning Child Safe Products.

I am concerned about this issue of because I am aware that the Federal system of  
regulation of chemicals was weakened from its inception so that it can not do an  
adequate job of protecting the public. Materials that cause us concern are  
ubiquitous in our lives through products in our every day lives. Most of the  
substances used in trade have not been tested for their effect on health and few steps  
have been taken to bar the presence of those that are widely recognized as harmful.

It is instructive that we have had to take legislative action in recent years to ban lead  
and asbestos in children's products and that we are here this year asking that you  
see that cadmium is phased out.

As a woman and as a grandmother of two girls, I am concerned about evidence that  
many of the chemicals in use act on the hormonal system of living beings in ways  
that we are only beginning to understand. One sign of this is the fact that girls are  
reaching puberty earlier than in the past. That change exposes them to increasing  
risk of breast cancer. I recommend that you all take a look at publications of the  
Breast Cancer Fund: [www.breastcancerfund.org/evidence](http://www.breastcancerfund.org/evidence). The intergenerational  
impact of the class of materials identified as "endocrine disruptors" is especially  
frightening. Many other health problems, from reproductive disorders to the  
epidemic of obesity and type 2 diabetes may be linked to such substances.

As an activist, I am concerned that the mortality of breast cancer is higher among  
women of color and that aggressive tumors have appeared in astonishingly young  
women. Research work on this subject has been done at The Center for  
Environmental Oncology at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.

Occupational exposures are among the sources of exposure that concern me. Ironically, chemotherapy nurses are among the populations who have an increased risk of breast cancer. For more information on such issues the newsletters of CEO are of great value: <http://www.upci.upmc.edu/ceo/newsletters.cfm>

I urge you to adopt both of these bills because they will begin to move us beyond the need to come to you about chemicals one at a time. A more comprehensive approach is needed. When parents do all they can to provide their children with healthy environments, it still is not enough. They need the help of regulators. Parents should not have to wonder whether common household products like bedding, toys or food can linings are damaging their children's futures.

Body Burden's of toxic chemicals concern me. Infants' cord blood has been found to contain more than 200 toxic chemicals (many of them no longer in use such as PCBs) when studied by the Environmental Working Group. This points to the urgency of these bills. The materials of highest concern are those that persist in the environment long after they are discarded or disposed of.  
<http://www.ewg.org/reports/bodyburden2/execsumm.php>

A Chemical Innovations Institute, as established in HB 5126, would help Connecticut to lead in manufacturing products that families can trust. It is an economic development opportunity for green jobs growth and will assure that CT products can be sold in the international market place. This will help our state businesses and the CT economy as a whole, as well as protecting the workers and consumers who I mentioned earlier in my testimony.

The European Union is in the process of phasing out hundreds of chemicals of high concern as part of their REACH legislation. Many countries are following the lead of the EU, including China, and U.S. manufacturers will have to find and use safer alternatives in order to stay competitive in the world market.

Without protections such as these bills begin to afford us, Connecticut will remain a dumping ground for dirtier products, even as safer ones are manufactured for sale in Europe and China.

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for their leadership in this area. Please make passing HB5126 and HB 5130 a priority this legislative session.

Thank you,

Martha Kelly  
57 Curtiss Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Written Testimony of Grace Hvasta-Petrarca, Certified Ayurvedic Practitioner, and Owner of Good for you Girls, LLC. ✓

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010.

Testimony in support of: BH 5126 AA Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute and the University of Connecticut and HB 5130 AAC Child Safe Products.

Grace Hvasta-Petrarca  
235 Town Hill Road  
New Hartford, CT 06057

A mother of 4 girls, Certified Ayurvedic Practitioner, and Owner of Good for you Girls, the only 100% Natural and Organic skincare company for girls aged 9-15.

It has been my personal quest for the past 11 years, to always provide my family with products that are safe. You would consider us a "green" family. One that eats organic foods, uses natural cleaning products for our home, and uses only natural and organic health and beauty products.

It has been so encouraging to see the growth in the Natural Foods Industry over the past decade. Because more and more people are educating themselves about harmful chemicals, and how even trace amounts of harmful chemicals used in food, cosmetics, kitchen utensils, baby toys, carpeting, clothing, and many other products, over time, build up in the body, causing chronic disease, and cancers. The research is overwhelming, and I am incensed by companies that continue to knowingly create and manufacture products that are harmful to humans.

My training in Natural Medicine gives me specific insight into how these toxins are stored in the body, and I see first hand the damage to both body and mind, caused by the absorption of these toxins. I consider it my responsibility as well as my job, to educate my patients so that they may develop healthier habits and make safer choices.

Two years ago, I was looking for natural skincare for my oldest daughter, who was a typical American pre-teen; an accomplished classical ballerina, a basketball & softball player. Her body was starting to change, and she was interested in developing good skincare habits. Of course, she noticed how I took care of my skin, and wanted to do the same. I told her I would find something just for her, as my products were geared toward anti-aging. As I shopped for her, it was quite evident that there was a void in this demographic. Wonderful natural products existed for babies, and adults, but nothing for girls 9-15.

That is why Good for you Girls began. My business partner and I put our heads together and developed the only 100% Natural and Organic skincare for girls. We have developed a new category within the natural food industry and are proud to be in over 200 retail locations nationwide. It is our personal commitment to provide a safe alternative to this demographic. It is our hope that other manufacturers will be inspired to keep the safety and good health of their customers as the primary objective. We realize that this commitment requires creativity, sacrifice, and hard work, but the resulting well being of the consumers (in our case, children 9-15), is well worth the effort.

Therefore, it should be no surprise that I fully support passing legislation banning harmful chemicals in products marketed toward children, or anyone for that matter; as well as establishing green job growth, promoting safe workplaces, and reducing the use of toxic chemicals linked to chronic disease.

**Written Testimony of Renee Centore-Kelly of Enfield,  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee  
March 1, 2010.**

Testimony in Support of:

**House Bill 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the  
University of Connecticut;**

**House Bill 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products**

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and honorable members of the Environment  
Committee,

**My name is Renee Centore-Kelly and I am a resident of Enfield.**

I am in writing because I strongly support HB 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations  
Institute at the University of Connecticut and HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products.

As a mother of a young daughter, I am concerned about the products around her. Parents work so  
hard to keep their kids safe, and we must have some kind of assurance that the things around  
them, especially those that are made for and marketed to them follow a standard. A standard that  
lets us know that we don't have to question what long term health effects they may be suffering  
as a result of the toys they play with. With ever changing information on chemicals that may  
cause serious harm and the difficulty of even knowing if they are in our products, we need  
oversight to help us ensure our children's health. Many people do not even know that certain  
substances may pose a risk. They assume that if it is legal it must be safe, not knowing about  
evidence stating otherwise. It would be impossible for someone to keep up on every chemical  
and every product and all of the literature about them. This bill will help protect families and  
help streamline the process so that it is not an uphill battle every time something needs to be  
removed from the market, while keeping a fair timeframe for the companies affected by the law  
to comply with it.

A Chemical Innovations Institute could also follow in this same spirit of protecting families  
while also being an economic development opportunity for Connecticut. Having safer chemical  
alternatives could provide long term savings for worker compensation, OSHA compliance costs,  
and waste disposal, while not requiring the State to contribute financially.

Please pass these bills and help protect families! Thank you for your time!

Renee Centore-Kelly  
132 Brewster Rd.  
Enfield, CT 06082

Written Testimony of Laura Anderson of Wethersfield, CT,  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010.

Testimony in Support of:

House Bill 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut

House Bill 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Laura Anderson.

I am in writing because I strongly support HB 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut and HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products.

In 2007 I agreed to participate as a volunteer in a biomonitoring project called "Is It In Us?" (IsItInUs.org). For this project, I donated samples of my blood and urine to be tested for the presence of 3 chemicals. I had learned from reading and from a friend in public health that our current lifestyles expose us to chemicals that have been associated with many growing health problems. I wanted to learn more about these chemicals and learn if I had them in my own body. I especially wanted to learn this information to protect my daughters and family, and help make the public aware of these unknown hazards. I knew that, like myself, in general, other people don't know about the toxic chemicals they are exposed to every day in their own environments and the extent of burden they carry as a result.

The results indicated that, like 95% of the U.S. population, I carried bisphenol-A, phthalates, and PBDE's in my body. The most important lesson for me from this experience was that toxic chemical exposure is not necessarily from our neighborhood factories or industrial parks. Much of our exposure to these chemicals is in our own homes, cars and workplaces. Bisphenol-A is used to make certain plastics used for things like food containers and water bottles. It is also used in the epoxy liner of food cans. The chemical leaches into the liquid or food. Phthalates are also widely used in food containers and plastics, and in personal care products (lotions, nail polish, etc.). PBDE's are chemicals that act as flame retardants and are used in the manufacture of all kinds of items in our homes. For example, furniture upholstery, rugs, fabric or curtains, electronics, mattresses are made with PBDE's.

As I reflected on these results, I began to think back to some experiences I have had that I suspect are related to chemical exposure since these chemicals are associated with cancers, infertility and reproductive problems, learning disabilities to name just a few. First, I have known a handful of families who have had a child treated for cancer. I don't remember any child in my community when I was young who died of cancer. I have known several women who have died of breast or ovarian cancer. I struggled with infertility for several years, yet both my mother and grandmother had several children.

Before having children, I worked as a school psychologist in different elementary schools and came across many children afflicted with attentional issues, learning disabilities and autism. I thought back to my own experience as an elementary student. I don't remember anyone with anything like autism in my classrooms, neighborhood, church or community. When I think about the fact that today's newborn is born with over 200 chemicals in their cord blood, it all seems to fit together.

Since the 1970's, thousands of chemicals have been released into the marketplace, in fact, more than 80,000. Our toxic chemical policies are so weak that we require little or no evidence for a chemical's safety before allowing its use. This is irresponsible. As we begin to understand the consequences of using unsafe chemicals, we are realizing the cost of our policies in terms of health problems and health care costs.

I used to think that my efforts to keep my family from harm were mostly effective. However, now I'm not so sure. I wonder if that water from the plastic filter in my refrigerated is tainted. I worry about my daughter's Ipods and Nintendo DS's and I remind them to wash their hands after using them. I hope that the polyester shower curtain which replaced the vinyl shower curtain is not emitting anything harmful. I don't buy canned food anymore, but I don't know what we're getting when we eat out. I store most food items in glass containers. I never cook with plastic, even the frozen vegetables to be steamed in their plastic packages in the microwave. We buy special nail polish now and try to find personal care products without fragrance and chemicals we know are harmful. I just look at my furniture and rugs sometimes, wondering. I try not to think about our mattresses. As my friend says, "Laura, you can't buy your way out of this one." Boy is she right. But why should we have to wonder if our everyday products are safe? The bottom line is, we need our legislators to better regulate chemicals to protect our children and ourselves.

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for their leadership in this area. Please make passing HB5126 and HB 5130 a priority this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Laura Anderson  
31 Lantern Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109

**ConnPIRG****Standing Up  
To Powerful Interests**198 Park Rd., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl.  
West Hartford, CT 06119www.connpirg.org  
info@connpirg.org(860) 233-7554 (ph)  
(860) 233-7574 (fx) ✓

Written Testimony of Jennifer Hatch, Program Associate, on behalf of the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group.

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee  
March 1, 2010

**Testimony in Support of HB 5130 "AAC Child Safe Products" and  
HB 5126 "AA Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of  
Connecticut"**

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and members of the Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bills 5130 and 5126. The Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG) is a statewide non-profit consumer advocacy organization that works to stand up for consumers against issues such as public health threats. At the national level, we worked to include phase-outs of lead and phthalates in the 2008 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. This was a strong step toward safer products for children, and was possible thanks to the leadership of states like Connecticut that had taken action to restrict lead and other chemicals of high concern. However, lead and phthalates are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to hazardous substances in consumer products, and products designed for children.

Every year, ConnPIRG releases a new version of our report *Trouble in Toyland*, outlining current hazards present in children's products, including the presence of toxins. Through this report we have pushed for consumer protections including banning known toxic chemicals, for enforcement of existing laws and for putting tools in consumers' hands. We're working for holistic solutions as well as tackling individual dangerous chemicals, but both are necessary to protect especially our youngest consumers. Research this year showed that the toxic metal cadmium is present in a wide range of children's products including jewelry and certain plastic items. Cadmium is a known human carcinogen that can also harm the kidneys, lungs, and other organ systems. Connecticut and many other states have passed cadmium restrictions for product packaging, but not for the products inside the packaging. ConnPIRG supports legislation that would phase out this metal from children's products, but also recognizes that a one-chemical-at-a-time approach will not solve the larger problem.

An Act Concerning Child Safe Products would put Connecticut on the path toward more proactive regulation of chemicals of concern. Maine and Washington have passed similar laws, and Connecticut now has the opportunity to borrow from their research and prioritize the most highly toxic chemicals for phase-out. This approach will help protect

our youngest and most vulnerable consumers from hidden, toxic dangers in the products designed for their use, and also help model the types of reforms that are needed federally to protect all Americans.

An Act Creating a Chemical Innovations Institute at UConn is a proposal that we also strongly support. Our sister organization in Massachusetts was instrumental in establishing a similar Institute – the Toxic Use Reduction Institute – in that state in 1989. Having a central hub for information on safer alternatives to toxic chemicals (particularly cleaning chemicals) has helped Massachusetts businesses reduce the use of toxic cleaning solvents and create safer workplaces. We believe that a similar entity in Connecticut could partner with TURI and similar institutes in other states to provide cutting-edge research to our companies and help make sure that they can comply with increasingly stringent chemical policies in the global marketplace.

Thank you for taking the lead on chemical policy reform – there are clear benefits for public health, the environment, and the strength of our economy.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hatch  
ConnPIRG



Susan Bysiewicz  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT

*Testimony in Support of*  
**Raised Bill No. 5126 – An Act Concerning a Chemical**  
**Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut**  
**and Raised Bill No. 5130 – An Act Concerning Child Safe Products**

***Environment Committee Public Hearing***  
***March 1, 2010***

Distinguished Co-Chairs—Senator Meyer and State Representative Roy—and members of the Environment Committee:

**I am submitting this testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 5126 – An Act Concerning a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut and Raised Bill No. 5130 – An Act Concerning Child Safe Products**

As Secretary of the State, I am proud to have collaborated with environmental and other advocacy groups concerned about products and toxic chemicals found to be harmful to children.

In March 2009, for example, I testified in favor of legislation that banned products, including baby bottles, which contained the harmful chemical BPA. I commend this committee and the General Assembly for passing that important piece of legislation.

I continue to support the efforts of environmental groups and food safety advocates for legislation that protects us all from harmful chemical additives and toxic pollutants in our food and water.

We must also continue to remain vigilant to protect the health and well-being of our children.

I take this opportunity to praise the Environment Committee for raising these bills and for hosting this public hearing on this important subject matter.

**Raised Bill 5130**

**Raised Bill 5130** is an important piece of legislation because it would empower the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Consumer Protection in efforts to identify, monitor, and regulate chemicals that can pose serious harm to children's health and development following their exposure to them.

Through this legislation, Connecticut would join the states of Maine and Washington in landmark legislation to further protect children from exposure to harmful chemicals.

If passed, this bill would enable our state agencies to work together and in consultation with the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse to add chemicals of high concern to the state's priority chemical list each year.

As you know, this Clearinghouse maintains well-vetted priority chemical lists from the federal government (EPA), Maine, Washington, and other states.

Accordingly, chemicals of high concern such as cadmium would be phased out three years after being added to the priority chemical list.

The case for establishing a state-mandated priority list of chemicals of high concern cannot be overstated.

Professor James Leckie of Stanford University has conducted so-called "exposure analysis" studies for over fifteen years and warns that children are exposed to harmful particles while crawling and playing in household dust or tracked-in soil.

His research concluded that as toddlers begin to explore their surroundings, they inevitably come in contact with a wide array of potentially harmful substances--from paints to pesticides--that can be swallowed, inhaled, and even absorbed through the skin.

According to him and other experts, children are far more sensitive to low concentrations of toxic chemicals than adults because of their developing organ tissues as well as high metabolism and skin-surface-area-to-body-weight ratio.

Also, because bio-chemical pathways in children are not yet complete and can be easily damaged, this damage is often manifested in slow learning and mental development.

Numerous studies and experts have also concluded that children exposed to toxic chemicals in their home environments have a higher incidence of asthma and other respiratory diseases, childhood cancers, central nervous system and other disorders such as ADD, and disruptions in endocrine functions.

Indeed, according to several major studies, toxic household products and dust have been found to cause lung irritation responsible for asthma attacks in many children.

Lastly, organizations like Clean Water Action have reported that "chemicals in our homes, schools and workplaces, found in such seemingly benign places as personal care products, cleaning products, toys, pet products, furniture, clothing, food, and water, have been linked to asthma, cancer, learning disabilities, reproductive damage, and a host of other diseases and disorders."

Raised Bill 5130 sets important criteria to help identify potential sources of such contaminants and toxic chemicals in home environments and makes reference to priority chemical lists developed by respected national and international health organizations and agencies.

By prioritizing these chemicals, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection will warn child and other product manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, and retailers that they cannot include in their products or sell and distribute products that contain any such chemicals.

Strong regulatory and enforcement provisions in this piece of legislation will ensure that manufacturers of products that children will come in contact with at home, in schools, or in playgrounds will comply with the testing and reporting requirements to protect the health and well-being of our children.

#### Raised Bill 5126

I also support Raised Bill 5126 because it will authorize the establishment of a Chemical Innovations Institute that will (1) promote research and development of safe chemical alternatives, (2) create green growth jobs and safe workplaces through green technology and green chemistry, and (3) provide assistance to state agencies, businesses, and nonprofits that want to use safe alternatives to chemicals that are harmful to public health and the environment.

The Chemical Innovations Institute at UConn would be a first of its kind in our state, and it would link with resources and information from, explore grant opportunities with, and advance the work of the federal Environmental Protection Agency's Green Chemistry Program.

We must continue to adopt public policies that safeguard public health, protect our environment, promote green jobs, and improve our quality of life now and for future generations.

This legislation sets the groundwork for innovations in green chemistry technologies, Green job creation, Green Chemistry education, and technical assistance in Connecticut.

Accordingly, the Institute could promote safer alternatives for chemical products and by-products for, among other things, pesticides, toxic waste and chemical pollution remediation, and safer sewage waste treatment.

The Institute can be a catalyst and incubator for novel research projects, chemical applications, and technologies for Green Chemistry and green jobs in our state.

It can also promote the development of best practices, safer chemical alternatives, and greater awareness of environmental safety among our businesses and in our communities.

For example, the Institute would update our businesses on changing national and international chemical policies, train them in evaluating chemicals for safer alternatives, help them market products as "green products," and save them money through reduced worker compensation, OSHA compliance costs, and hazardous waste disposal fees.

Lastly, it is my understanding that this bill would allow the Board of Directors of the Institute to apply for outside funding and carry out fee-for-service activities.

Given the State of Connecticut and the University of Connecticut's budgetary constraints during these challenging economic times, it is critical that the Institute have the ability to generate its own revenue independently.

Therefore, I support both of these bills and thank you for moving them through in this year's legislative session.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Bysiewicz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Bysiewicz

Secretary of the State of Connecticut



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Testimony of Gretchen Raffa, Community Organizer  
 Planned Parenthood of Southern New England  
 in support of HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products  
HB 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of  
Connecticut

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee, my name is Gretchen Raffa, Community Organizer for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England testifying in support of HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products and HB 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut. Planned Parenthood of Southern New England's mission is to protect the right of all individuals to control their own fertility. Over the past decade new studies demonstrate that environmental contaminants and exposure to chemicals can have a detrimental effect on one's reproductive health. As a trusted provider of reproductive health care to over 70,000 patients every year we are committed to educating ourselves and patients about the dangers and health risks from exposure to chemicals for women and their families.

Mounting scientific evidence shows some industrial chemicals act as endocrine disruptors which can cause serious risks for women's health such as infertility, breast cancer, polycystic ovarian syndrome; uterine fibroids, endometriosis, miscarriage, shortened lactation and breast cancer. Hazardous chemicals in everyday products such as cosmetics, personal care products cleaning products, and our environment get into women's bodies, their breast milk, and in their uterus. The timing and level of exposure to these chemicals can affect how a woman's body develops and functions.

What research confirms is more women are experience difficulty in conceiving and maintaining a pregnancy; which affected 40% more women in 2002 than in 1982. The incidence of reported difficulty has almost doubled in younger women, ages 18-25<sup>[i]</sup>, <sup>[ii]</sup> There is evidence of a growing trend in the U.S. toward earlier breast development and onset of menstruation in girls. Studies suggest that endocrine-disrupting chemicals, particularly estrogen mimics are important factors associated with altered puberty timing. <sup>[iii]</sup> Yet no chemicals are currently regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act because of their potential harm to reproduction or development. But other authoritative bodies have listed more than 50 industrial chemicals as reproductive toxins. <sup>[iv]</sup>

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England and those working to promote reproductive justice have long fought for a woman's right to control her reproductive destiny. We have a growing concern that the complexities of a woman's environment; including her physical geography, race, class, access to healthcare, place of employment to name a few, can play a debilitating role on her fertility and reproductive health. This is why we have turned our attention to the environmental toxins that are affecting the ability of women to become pregnant; have a healthy pregnancy, and give birth to a healthy child.

The time is now to reduce exposure to chemicals for children and women of childbearing age. We urge you to support HB 5130 and HB 5126. We at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England believe this is an urgent matter of reproductive justice. All women should be guaranteed the right to control their own fertility, bear healthy babies and live in safe and healthy communities. Thank you.

[i] Anjani Chandra and Elizabeth Hervey Stephen, "Impaired Fecundity in the United States: 1982-1995," *Family Planning Perspectives*, 30, no 1, (1998): 34-42.

[ii] Kate Brett, "Fecundity in 2002 National Survey of Family Growth Women 15-24 Years of Age," Hyattsville, MD, National Center for Health Statistics (2008)

[iii] Susan W. Euling, et al., "Role of Environmental Factors in the Timing of Puberty," *Pediatrics*, 121, S3 (February 2008): S167-71.

[iv] California Environmental Protection Agency, "Proposition 65: The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986," *Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer or Reproductive Toxicity List as of September 11, 2009*

**Testimony of Andrea Cohen Kiener, on behalf of Interreligious Eco-Justice Network  
March 1, 2010  
Committee on the Environment**

**HB 5126 AA Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute and the University of Connecticut**

These are two important bills. The documented variety and concentration of toxic exposures each of us has is truly alarming. Because these exposures are minute and spread out over time – the dread that we should feel – the urgency we should work from – are absent. Over a lifetime, we have responses to these exposures which range from infertility and birth defects to asthma and mood disorders and no one can draw the straight line and point to this shampoo is the cause, this chemical in my rug is the cause. The exposures are diffuse and the consequences are attenuated. But my sense of urgency is real.

I have a daughter with infertility problems and I myself suffer from breast cancer and asthma. In many of the products I choose or need to buy, I am exposed again and again to solvents and fumes of various kinds. I have congregants who live in a bubble environment in their homes because their immune systems have been given out from all the toxins. No one is minding the store. Industry is not minding the store. Relevant state and federal enforcement laws are spread out over dozens of agencies – and many of the agency mandates are ridiculously inadequate for the task. The federal Toxic Substance Control Act addresses 4 chemicals out of the 19000 that are produced in excess of 1Mil tons a year.

I am excited about the proposal for an institute at UConn to research best practices for bringing the safest chemical alternatives to the market. The institute could use research developing in other states and forums. It can create an important technical and economic resource for UConn and the state. I think this institute can bridge the cultural gap between business and health advocates such as me. Their research and recommendations can serve businesses who do not wish to poison their customers but who have no guidance as to what is truly dangerous in their product line and which alternatives are safer.

**HB 5130 AAC Child Safe Products**

As for the children's safe products act, this is a logical compliment to the very important institute bill. We know what is truly harmful to a vulnerable class of citizens – our kids – and we need a mechanism to phase these materials out.

These bills are timely and useful. They put us in an excellent direction to have a healthy economic and environmental culture. I believe they will both be an asset to the state and a model.

I speak here more as a mom than as a religious leader – but I will add that 300 of our members have signed a statement on Christian Principles for a Healthy Body and a Healthy Spirit. Signers include members of the Catholic Church and Planned Parenthood. There is not much legislation out there that draws support from groups this diverse. Thank you for your support of these timely and important bills.



30 Arbor Street □ HARTFORD, CT 06106 □ (860) 233-2181 Fax: (860) 233-2189 □ Website: www.ccag.net

Testimony of Phil Sherwood, Deputy Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG), Before the Environment Committee, Testimony in Support of: HB 5126 and HB 5130, March 1, 2010

My name is Phil Sherwood and I am the Deputy Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). CCAG is a membership based organization comprised of 25,000 members statewide and has been active in Connecticut for nearly 40 years.

We would like to thank the members of the Environment Committee for having this hearing and would like to express organizational support for HB 5126 and HB 5130.

The Chemical lobby may say it is best to employ a wait and see approach in Connecticut and claim that the federal reform for the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) is near. Unfortunately, they're wrong. The wait and see argument is simply a delaying tactic to thwart efforts of state elected officials to proactively consider phasing out chemicals of concern. Legislation to reform the TSCA has not even been introduced at the federal level, and the chemical lobby has made a similar argument to delay action there. In D.C., the chemical lobby has argued that federal reform should wait to see what happens at the state level given that various states are considering comprehensive initiatives to deal with toxins.

Ideally, reform happens at the federal level. However, we've seen for some time that states such as Connecticut pave the way for meaningful reform at the federal level such as when Connecticut took legislative action on lead, asbestos, and BPA in 2008 and 2009. Connecticut has a real opportunity to lead by example once again.

HB 5130, "An Act Concerning Child Safe Products" would help make sure that toxic chemicals do not end up in products meant for children. While many of us probably hope that all the products we use daily are safe, children's products that contain chemicals of concern need to be addressed. Chemicals such as cadmium, arsenic, and unnecessary flame retardants could be prioritized for phase-out based on their health hazards. This approach better ensures that we no longer have to do battle with one chemical at a time.

Cadmium, for example, is being found in children's jewelry and PVC plastic toys. This toxic metal can harm child development, disrupt hormone systems, alter behavior, and delay the development of motor and sensory skills. My wife and I are parents of a 1 month old baby girl and should not have to worry if the rattle she will no doubt put in her mouth contains cadmium.

HB 5126, "An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut" would foster green job growth and reduce the use of toxic chemicals that are increasingly linked to the rising incidence of numerous chronic diseases.

The concept of the institute would allow CT to complement work being done in our neighboring states. CT needs to act in the area of safer, green chemical alternatives in order to keep CT businesses up to date on international and national chemical policy changes. Not moving forward with a Chemical Innovations Institute given that increasingly comprehensive and sweeping chemical reforms that are being implemented in other countries puts CT at a disadvantage, not only in the global market place, but at a regional disadvantage.

MA has a nationally renowned and respected Institute focused on safer alternatives to cleaning chemicals and assists businesses with cutting edge alternatives information allowing them to participate in markets that may have once been closed to them. It's also important to note that this can be proposed in a way that does not cost the state any money.

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for their past commitment to reducing exposure to toxic substances and ask for your support for both HB 5126 and HB 5130.

Phil Sherwood,  
Deputy Director, Connecticut Citizen Action Group



# ECHO

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To: Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and Members of the Environment Committee.  
 Re: Support Bills: HB 5126-Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut  
HB5130—An Act Concerning Child Safe Products

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee, my name is Carolyn Wysocki and as President of ECHO, (Ecological Health Organization, Inc.) I am here to voice our support for HB 5126 and HB 5130.

Almost 20 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. MCS is a chronic disorder as a result of a massive single exposure to a chemical such as a pesticide or a cumulative building up of toxic chemicals in our bodies over a period of time. We develop increased reactions to various chemicals found in products such as pesticides, building materials, appliances, cosmetics, computers, fragrances, carpets, and cleaning products and exhibit respiratory, neurological, muscular, cardio-vascular, thoracic etc. symptoms, dependent on the chemical exposure. There is no known cure for MCS and the most effective treatment found to date is avoidance of toxic chemicals. A difficult task in today's world.

We and our families are being exposed to toxic chemicals on a daily bases in our home, school and work environments. It is only after the fact when there is sufficient numbers of people with an illness that some corrective action is done like removing the product or chemical from the market as was done with dioxin, mercury, asbestos, lead, PCBs, etc. I am not only speaking about people with MCS but those children and adults who are contributing to a growing epidemic of chronic diseases and disorders that include cancers, asthma, learning and developmental disabilities, birth defects, reproductive disorders such as infertility, and neuro-degenerative disorders such as Parkinson's disease.

Since 2001, the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has been tracking the levels of synthetic chemicals in the blood and urine of average Americans – our so-called "body burden." These studies have found that all of us are contaminated with household and industrial chemicals and pesticides – some of which can build up in our bodies, our blood, fat tissues, muscle, bone, brain or other organs. For example, PCBs and DDT, two persistent chemicals that have been banned for 30 years, are still found in nearly all people tested by the CDC. Other chemicals lodge in our bodies for only a short time before being excreted, but continuous exposure to such chemicals means they are usually present in our bodies.  
<http://www.chemicalbodyburden.org/whatisbb.htm>

Just as the canaries in the coal mines, people with MCS are the human canaries of the 21 Century, warning that toxic chemicals are effecting public health. On behalf of ECHO, we owe it to our children and grandchildren to provide a safe environment, safer substances, safer alternatives, and safer manufacturing processes, to reduce hazardous substances in consumer products, at workplaces and businesses, in homes, in our land, water and in the air. As a founding member of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut, ECHO supports establishing an Innovation Institute that will help lessen the risk of people becoming ill from toxic chemicals. By replacing toxic chemicals with safer alternatives we can help reduce the number of potential people who could develop MCS or cancer, learning disabilities, asthma, reproductive and neurodegenerative disorders. By helping Connecticut manufacturers make the transition to safer substances and processes, we can reduce illnesses and health care costs, improve worker, community and environmental public health. The good news is that the harm caused by toxic chemicals is preventable and

*"Prevention is My Intention."*

Sincerely,  
 Carolyn Wysocki President, ECHO

**MISSION**  
 To safeguard the health and well-being of the environment and its inhabitants.

✓

**Testimony of Carolyn Stearns, resident of Mansfield  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010.**

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 5126,  
An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut;  
and House Bill 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products**

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and honorable members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Carolyn Stearns, and I am a resident of Mansfield. I am here in support of HB 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut and HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products.

I would like to tell you about my own family's experience with disease attributed to toxic chemicals exposure -- My daughter walked in the door, her face was dark and foreboding and then she blurted...." Mom I have cancer!" It is my hope that one day in Connecticut there will be a time when Mothers never have to live that moment, they will never have to see that look on the face of a family member. I wish for mothers to never have to sit through long grueling chemo treatments for daughters or sons.

It was October 2008 when my daughter, age 28 came home with the frightening news. It was not long after that tests revealed she was harboring Stage 4 Hodgkins Lymphoma Cancer, as the stage is determined, there were many tumors above and below the diaphragm. Hodgkins is common in young people, the cancer is linked with chemicals.

After 12 rounds of chemotherapy I am ecstatic to say that my daughter is cancer free at this time. It has impacted all our lives, loss of work time, extreme medical bills, compromised her future health, a one, five, 10 year plan for control and watching, followed by a lifetime plan.

Childhood and youth should be protected from the onslaught of everyday chemicals. Children don't read labels, children don't volunteer to absorb these substances. Our job as adults, parents, leaders and Government is to protect the innocent. Let us work to give them back the freedom of knowing their environment at home, school and in the community is safe. If we act today, if we dare to be so bold as to enact protective legislation then the day will come when Mothers won't hear - Mom, I have cancer!

Please make passing HB5126 and HB 5130 a priority this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Stearns  
440 Mansfield City Rd.  
Storrs, Ct. 06268



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**State Representative Lonnie Reed**  
**Testimony on behalf of HB 5126 and HB 5130**  
**Environment Committee Public Hearing 3/1/10**

As we all know, the green chemistry movement is growing and major efforts are underway here in the US and abroad to restrict or eliminate the use of suspect chemicals in all kinds of products, replacing them with safe alternatives.

I am testifying today in support of HB 5126, an Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at UConn Health Center. It is an idea whose time has come. The Institute would be pro-active rather than re-active, bringing stakeholders to the table, enabling scientists, health professionals, industry representatives and regulators to work together in an ongoing effort to anticipate Chemical Policy initiatives from the European Union and a growing number of states including California, Washington State, Michigan, Minnesota and Maine.

The Institute could help companies track regulatory trends and make sense of new requirements; it could assist in the training of occupational health, safety and environmental staff, and in the dissemination of best practices for chemical management. Connecticut companies must develop programs to respond to these new market requirements. A Chemical Innovations Institute could be a very attractive new resource for protecting the jobs and the health of Connecticut residents.

As a business person myself who works constantly to anticipate and respond to trends, I know it is suicidal to just sit back and do nothing as markets close their doors to your products. A Chemical Innovations Institute would be good for the health of consumers. Good for the fiscal health of manufacturers and for the thousands of people who work for them.

SERVING BRANFORD

I am also speaking today in favor HB 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products. Again, parents the world-over are growing more militant when it comes to the composition of toys, food containers, jewelry and other products that inevitably wind up in their children's mouths. As we all know, that's what kids do.

The goal of this bill is to make sure that the most toxic chemicals do not end up in products meant for children. Companies eager to sell their products to increasingly savvy consumers, and in increasingly regulated overseas markets, will benefit from phasing out chemicals that are on the hit list. Manufacturers that innovate and respond to consumer concerns will outcompete those that do not. Since Maine, Washington state and Minnesota are moving forward with very similar approaches, Connecticut has the opportunity to adopt the lists of chemicals being developed by these states.

The "one-chemical-at-a-time" policy will not solve our big picture problem anytime soon. Again, HB 5130 is an opportunity to be pro-active rather than reactive. And that is good for babies and good for business as well.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Written Testimony of Andrew May of 35 Owen St. Hartford, CT. 06105,  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010-

Testimony in Support of:

House Bill 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University

Of Connecticut:

House Bill 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and honorable members of the Environment Committee,  
My name is Andrew May and I am a resident of Hartford.

I am writing because I strongly support HB 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut and HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products.

I assume that a large part of your life as a Legislator this session is consumed by the budget and the economy. The establishment of a Chemical Innovations Institute represents an investment in Connecticut's economy and public health. The European Union is in the process of phasing out hundreds of chemicals of high concern as part of their REACH legislation. According to DECD figures, in 2008, France, Germany, and Great Britain represented respectively, the second, third, and fifth most valuable destinations for Connecticut products; meanwhile, also according to DECD, chemicals represent the second most valuable Connecticut export. It is not hard to see, therefore, that establishment of a Chemical Innovations Institute is vital to our economic health.

In his February 25<sup>th</sup> op-ed entitled, "Do Toxins Cause Autism?" *New York Times* columnist Nicholas D. Kristof quotes from Dr. Phillip J. Landrigan, professor of pediatrics at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and chairman of the school's department of preventive medicine. Dr. Landrigan writes, "The likelihood is 'high' that many chemicals 'have potential to cause injury to the developing brain and to produce neurodevelopmental disorders.'" For this public health reason, not ignoring moral implications, I urge you to pass HB5130 which would begin to phase out certain high-risk chemicals from children's products such as bedding, toys, or food can linings. Connecticut parents have enough to worry about!!!

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for past leadership in phasing out mercury, lead, and BPA.

Please make passing HB5126 and HB5130 a priority this legislative session

Sincerely,

  
Andrew May

Written testimony of Lisa M. Ryan-Boyle of Darien, Connecticut  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly  
Environmental Committee, March 1, 2010

Testimony in Support of  
House Bill 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the  
University of Connecticut;  
House Bill 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and honorable members of the  
Environmental Committee,

My name is Lisa Ryan-Boyle and I am a resident of Darien. I am writing because I strongly support HB 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut, and HB 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products.

Both bills address issues of great interest to me as an individual, as a parent and generally as a citizen concerned for future generations to come. Of the overwhelming number of chemicals in products on the market today – some 80,000 – only a handful have been banned from use by the EPA. Yet a growing number of studies suggest that many other chemicals found in common household products may pose serious threats to health.

Current laws leave consumers completely on their own to determine which chemical-laden products, including household and cleaning products, cosmetics and toys, are safe enough to bring into the home. The bills introduced today would aid Connecticut residents: by identifying a priority list of chemicals that pose risk to children's health; by banning targeted chemicals in products used by children; by fostering green technology and jobs; and by paving the way for employers to provide workers with safe non-toxic places to work.

My education in health risks posed by toxic chemicals found in common household products is the result of an odyssey rather than a crash course. It started many years ago with a casual exchange of tips between moms in the parking lot at my children's school. Growing hungry for more information, I began to conduct independent research for answers to questions about toxin-free products. When I learned that my son has a form of ADHD, my quest broadened even further as I tried to sort through the morass of available but often conflicting information. Finally, a few years ago I began working with the Mount Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center (CEHC), an organization that studies links between toxins in the environment and children's diseases such as cancers, asthma, autism, ADHD, Type 2 diabetes and obesity.

My connection to CEHC exposes me to the most recent information on the possible effects of certain chemicals on children's health. It teaches me that the most vulnerable beings are the tiniest ones, especially those yet to be born. Study after

study suggests that exposure of certain chemicals *in utero* through a pregnant mother during vital developmental stages can have devastating and life-lasting results to a child. No child in this country is born entirely free of toxins. Indeed, one national study overseen by the Environmental Working Group, a well-regarded 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, detected more than 200 potentially toxic substances in the blood of newborns. Second to preborn babies are the risks posed to young babies whose brains are continuing to develop and whose small bodies cannot process toxins as efficiently as can those of adults.

CEHC empowers me with knowledge. It offers me the choice to take a "better-safe-than-sorry" approach when purchasing consumer goods. In this way, it gives me a clear advantage over many other Connecticut residents. But it is an advantage I feel all parents state-wide are entitled to have.

Passage of HB 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products, would eliminate this knowledge gap and take the guesswork out of a parent's safe consumer choices. No longer would well-intentioned parents expose children to products they believe to be safe, only to learn down the road that the products in fact contained chemicals that potentially pose serious health risks.

The enactment of a phase-out of Bisphenol-A in children's products last year positioned Connecticut as a national leader in this field. The comprehensive approach envisioned in HB 5130 is the logical next step. It would secure the state's leadership role and, more importantly, ensure that all parents can provide their children with the safest choices on the market.

With the phase-out in this state and general concern nation-wide over exposures to Bisphenol-A, we have already witnessed an explosion of alternative products coming to market. Likewise, the European Union's upcoming phase-out of hundreds of other chemicals of high concern is certain to spawn the demand for and production of more alternative products in the global marketplace. HB 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut, would enable this state to compete in the new "green" marketplace, and at the same time, create needed jobs and safe workplaces for its residents.

I am grateful to the Environment Committee and would like to thank each member for his or her leadership in this area. Please make passing HB 5126 and HB 5130 a priority this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Ryan-Boyle  
150 Goodwives River Road  
Darien, CT 06820

Written Testimony of Erika Correa on behalf of The Learning Disabilities  
Association of Connecticut.

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010

Testimony in Support of: HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products and HB  
5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of  
Connecticut;

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and honorable members of the Environment  
Committee,

I am writing in support of the HB 5130 and HB 5126. I am a registered nurse, a parent,  
and volunteer with the Learning Disabilities Association of Connecticut.

I am very concerned with the health of our community. We are all exposed to a wide  
range of chemicals regularly. Many of these chemicals have been shown to be harmful.  
Even small exposures to some chemicals can cause learning and developmental problems  
in children and developing fetuses. Developmental and learning disabilities are a heavy  
burden on our community and educational system.

I am proud to know that Connecticut has been a national leader in reducing  
environmental exposure to mercury, lead and BPA. HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child  
Safe Products will allow us to take a comprehensive approach to reducing children's  
exposure to high risk chemicals. I have met many parents who worry about what their  
children are exposure to, but find it difficult keep track of what chemicals to avoid and  
how to avoid them. This bill will take that responsibility off of individual parents and  
allow all of us to enjoy safer homes, workplaces and environments.

The second bill, HB 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the  
University of Connecticut, in an essential step in making our community safer while  
supporting Connecticut businesses. This organization will make it easier for businesses  
to find cost alternatives to current formulas with minimizing their own research costs.  
Connecticut businesses can to safer places to work, provide safer products. As world  
markets often require different standards, access to this resource can help Connecticut  
businesses compete more effectively overseas. A Chemical Innovations Institute could  
be a center of excellence to attract manufactures to the state as well as an opportunity of  
green jobs.

I hope the Environment Committee with make passing both HB 5126 and HB 5130 a  
priority. I thank you for your continued leadership in this area.

Sincerely,

Erika Correa  
154 Shagbark Rd  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Written Testimony of Toby Cone of Darien, CT and the executive board of the Children's  
Environmental Health Center at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York,  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010.

Testimony in Support of:

House Bill 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut

House Bill 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and members of the Environment Committee,

**My name is Toby Cone and I am a Darien resident and on the board of the Children's Environmental Health Center at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.**

I am in writing because I strongly support HB 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut and HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products.

- I am concerned about this issue of because we need state government to proactively consider phasing out chemicals of concern, at least in the products used by children.
- House Bill 5130 would solve the problem by creating a process for state agencies to work together on a list of the most toxic chemicals in children's products. These would then be phased out after being on the list for a few years.

Many studies have linked toxins to diseases such as cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's as well as asthma, infertility and learning disabilities. Young children and developing fetuses are especially vulnerable; exposure to even a small amount can affect a child for life. Connecticut has been a national leader by phasing out lead, mercury and BPA but we cannot continue to play toxic chemical "whac-a-mole" with our children's health. Please pass HB 5130 to establish a comprehensive approach to phase out of chemicals of high concern from children's products. Parents should not have to wonder whether common household products, like bedding, toys or food can linings, are damaging their children's futures!

If prevention is, in fact, the best medicine, then we need to pay much closer attention to the role chemicals in the environment play in the rise of disease, related health care costs, and human suffering.

The European Union is in the process of phasing out hundreds of chemicals of high concern as part of their REACH legislation. Many countries are following the lead of the EU, including China, and U.S. manufacturers will have to find and use safer alternatives in order to stay competitive in the world market. A Chemical Innovations Institute, as established in HB 5126, would help Connecticut to lead in manufacturing products that families can trust. It is an economic development opportunity for green jobs growth and will assure that CT products can be sold in the international market place. This will help our state businesses and the CT economy as a whole, as well as protecting workers and consumers from exposure to toxins.

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for their leadership in this area. Please make passing HB5126 and HB 5130 a priority this legislative session.

Thank you,  
Toby Cone  
17 Richmond Drive  
Darien CT 06820

Written Testimony of Sue Harkness of Conversations for a Green Connecticut, Before the  
Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010.

Testimony in Support of:

House Bill 5126, An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of  
Connecticut;

House Bill 5130, An Act Concerning Child Safe Products

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and honorable members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Sue Harkness and I am a member of Conversations for a Green CT, a group based in Ashford that is concerned about environmental issues and brings more awareness of these issues to the public through programs and activities.

I am writing because I strongly support HB 5126 An Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute at the University of Connecticut and HB 5130 An Act Concerning Child Safe Products. I am concerned about this issue as all folks should be if they value their health and the health of everybody else, especially young children. Most of us do not have the knowledge necessary to know everything about these dangerous chemicals, and an Institute such as the one mentioned above would be the scientific and academic component that is so necessary, in addition to all of the other economic opportunities.

Many studies have linked toxins to diseases such as cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's as well as asthma, infertility and learning disabilities. Young children and developing fetuses are especially vulnerable; exposure to even a small amount can affect a child for life. Connecticut has been a national leader by phasing out lead, mercury and BPA but we cannot continue to play toxic chemical "whac-a-mole" with our children's health. Please pass HB 5130 to establish a comprehensive approach to phase out of chemicals of high concern from children's products. Parents should not have to wonder whether common household products, like bedding, toys or food can linings, are damaging their children's futures!

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I would like to thank the Environment Committee for their leadership in this area. Please make passing HB5126 and HB 5130 a priority this legislative session.

Very truly yours,

Sue Elizabeth Harkness  
322 Ashford Center Road  
Ashford, CT 06278

Written Testimony of Alison Barria, student of Fairfield University School of Nursing, before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March 1, 2010, Testimony in support of: HB 5126 and HB 5130

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill # 5126 and #5130. My name is Alison Barria, I am in my final semester of nursing school at Fairfield University. Being a nursing student and studying how our population's health has changed in the past few decades, I was really drawn to these two Bills and what they stand for. Future generations will become increasingly effected by the environment that we are creating for them. People are living longer but they aren't necessarily living healthy lives.

My cousin Adriana found out that she was pregnant with her first child about 9 years ago. She was so excited and did all of the things she needed to do in order to stay healthy throughout her pregnancy and avoid any complications. She gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Gabby. We all noticed that Gabby's second birthday was coming up and she was still not speaking the way a normal two year old would. Her speech was delayed as well as her motor skills. Being a very concerned parent, Adriana took Gabby to the doctor and they soon diagnosed her with autism.

Devastated from the news, Adriana could only blame herself and wondered about all the things she might have done to prevent this from occurring. Naturally parents tend to blame themselves, however, what if they did everything "right" and their child is still sick? Is it possible that the chemicals used in Gabby's toys and bottles were to blame? There has been an alarming increase in the diagnosis of Autism among other childhood developmental disorders, childhood cancers, and reproductive problems in the past decade, and it is possible that toxic chemicals are a cause.

There are numerous chemicals in children's products, and many of them have been shown to be related to disease and disability. I urge you to support this bill to identify these chemicals, remove them from our products and use safer alternatives.

As a member of the Environmental Committee, you are able to promote what is in the best interest of the population. I urge that House Bill #5130 be passed to protect our future.

Alison Barria  
1073 North Benson Rd.  
Fairfield, CT 06824



# Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice

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Good Afternoon Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Mark Mitchell and I am the president of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice. I am here to testify in favor of HB5130, the An Act Concerning Child Safe Products and HB5126 an Act Establishing a Chemical Innovations Institute. I will also comment on HB5121, an Act Concerning Revisions In the Environmental Justice Community Statute.

These bills call for policies to *prevent harm* before damage is done, and to require that businesses and government choose the safest alternatives in a comprehensive fashion, rather than a chemical by chemical approach. The Child Safe Products Act, HB 5130, seeks to pinpoint toxic chemicals of greatest concern, in children's products, and work to phase these chemicals out so we can protect the health of our children. HB 5126 seeks to establish an Institute to work with Connecticut business to find safer substitutes. Both of these bills are budget neutral. We have been meeting with the University of Connecticut, businesses and with the Connecticut Business and Industry Association to try to make sure that the Chemical Innovations Institute is of substantial benefit to Connecticut manufacturers in maintaining competitiveness and creating new green jobs.

The result of current government policies is that toxic substances come into our bodies without our knowledge or consent. We have seen that ignoring early warning signs can result in serious illness. The tragic histories of lead and mercury, for example, demonstrate the harm caused when government and industry do not take action to protect health. We have also seen that acting on early warnings can prevent widespread harm, as in the case of the drug thalidomide. Children are particularly vulnerable to many of these toxic chemicals.

Approximately 80,000 chemicals are licensed for use in commerce today. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has estimated that fewer than 10% of the industrial chemicals produced in the largest quantities (over one million pounds per year) have undergone even a limited set of tests to assess their health effects on humans. Most tests look only for acute toxicity or cancer-causing properties. Potential harm to a child's nervous system is rarely investigated. In fact, as of 1998, only 12 chemicals had been tested according to EPA standards for their impact on the developing human brain. Even less is known about what happens when people and ecosystems are repeatedly exposed to more than one chemical at a time.

Yet recent tests by the U.S. government have found hundreds of chemicals in the blood and urine of Americans.

In addition, many of these synthetic chemicals go into products sold in stores. While the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission frequently takes action to prevent safety hazards in products, chemical toxicity hazards to consumers are far less regulated. No pre-market safety testing or approval has been required under any federal law for chemicals in cosmetics, toys, clothing, carpets or construction materials, to name just a few obvious sources of chemical exposure in everyday life. Products like hair spray, hair dye, pacifiers, stain repellants, glues, and children's toys have been put on the market, only to be found, after decades of widespread use, to contain toxic compounds at unsafe levels.

These dangerous products end up, all too often, buried in landfills or burned in incinerators in low-income communities and communities of color. These communities pay a very high cost in terms of increased levels of asthma, cancer, diabetes, and so forth as a result of exposure to the toxins that are in these products. This issue of disposal adds an additional urgency to the need to find safer substitutes to the dangerous chemicals children, along with the rest of us, are exposed to on a continual basis.

I would like to say a few words regarding HB 5121, an Act Concerning revisions in the Environmental Justice Community Statute.

I am proud to announce that the current environmental justice statute, passed in 2008, is working very well. There are some technical adjustments and improvements that Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice would support, but we would like the bill held this year in light of the short legislative session and the importance of the chemical reform bills to our membership.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.