

Legislative History for Connecticut Act

PA 14-178

HB5530

House	2626-2634, 5116-5142	36
Senate	3458, 3475, 3480-3481	4
Public Health	1338-1340, 1885-1893, <u>1911-2038, 2047-2062</u>	156
		196

H - 1188

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

**VOL.57
PART 8
2370 - 2692**

pat/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

360
April 25, 2014

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5484.

Total number voting 129

Necessary for passage 65

Those voting Yea 129

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 21

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 256.

THE CLERK:

House Calendar 256, Favorable Report of the Joint
Standing Committee on Judiciary, Substitute House Bill
5530 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING BULK WATER HAULERS.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

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

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question is on acceptance of the Joint
Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, madam?

pat/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

361
April 25, 2014

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. This bill will make it so that both water haulers who haul drinking water for people have to be licensed. So I move adoption and I also call an amendment, LCO Number 4384 and be allowed to summarize.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 4384, which will be designated House Amendment "A".

THE CLERK:

House Amendment "A", LCO 4384 introduced by Representative Johnson, et al.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The Chairwoman seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Seeing none, you may proceed with summarization, madam.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This merely clarifies the fact that this requirement under the law refers only to public drinking water supplies and only for drinking water for human consumption.

I move adoption of the Amendment.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The question before the Chamber is adoption.

pat/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

362
April 25, 2014

Will you remark? Representative Srinivasan.

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark on House Amendment "A"?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of House Amendment "A" please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, nay? The ayes have it. The Amendment is adopted.

Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Chris Wright.

REP. WRIGHT (77th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may, a few questions to the proponent of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. WRIGHT (77th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Chairman Johnson, I have just a few questions on the bill. One, does the bill impose any requirements on the transportation of water for swimming pools?

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

pat/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

363
April 25, 2014

No, it does not.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Through the Chair please.

REP. WRIGHT (77th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, it has no imposition on haulers of water for swimming pools.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Wright.

REP. WRIGHT (77th):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, does this bill impose any requirements on the transportation of water for construction purposes?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

No, not for construction purposes.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Wright.

REP. WRIGHT (77th):

Thank you. Does, through you, Mr. Speaker, does

pat/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

364
April 25, 2014

this bill impose any requirements on the
transportation of water for agricultural purposes?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

No, it does not impose any limitations on the
hauling of water for agricultural purposes.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Wright.

REP. WRIGHT (77th):

Thank you. And lastly, does this bill impose any
requirements on the transportation of water for any
use other than for human consumption?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, there is no
requirement. The only requirement that we have here
is for human consumption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Wright.

REP. WRIGHT (77th):

pat/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

365
April 25, 2014

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was all I have, and with the answer to those questions, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

Thank you very much.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, request and urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

And through you, Mr. Speaker, I just have one question to the proponent of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, in the renewal of a license to be bulk water hauler, if there is, will that renewal not be given only if there is a disciplinary action to the bulk water provider?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

pat/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

366
April 25, 2014

Through you, Mr. Speaker, that's correct.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and so just to clarify that. So if a complaint is pending but no disciplinary action has been taken yet, and in that interim period between the complaint being there and the action not yet being taken, if the renewal time has occurred, will the bulk water person be allowed and be given the license?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Johnson.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

That's a very good and accurate reading of the legislation. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Srinivasan.

REP. SRINIVASAN (31st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's all the questions I have and I want to thank the Chairwoman for her answers. Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

pat/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

367
April 25, 2014

Thank you, sir. Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, staff and guests to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.

Will members please return to the Chamber immediately.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted? Members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast.

If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. And will the Clerk please announce the tally.

Mr. Clerk, before you announce the tally. Representative Stallworth, for what reason do you rise?

REP. STALLWORTH (126th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wish my vote to be recorded in the affirmative.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

pat/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

368
April 25, 2014

Thank you, sir. Your vote has been recorded in the affirmative. And now will the Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5530 as amended by House "A".

Total number voting 130

Necessary for passage 66

Those voting Yea 130

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 20

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 179.

THE CLERK:

On Page 10, House Calendar 179, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Public Employees, House Bill 5346 AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of this good bill.

H – 1195

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

**VOL.57
PART 15
4809– 5187**

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

53
May 3, 2014

Those voting Yea	140
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	11

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended is passes.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 303?

THE CLERK

On page 10, House Calendar 303, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Development. Substitute House Bill 5530, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES BY CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Rojas, for what reason do you rise?

REP. ROJAS (9th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to recuse myself to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir. The Chamber will stand at ease for a moment.

(Chamber at Ease.)

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Chamber will come back to order.

Representative Dan Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Yes, good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Question is on acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Will you remark, sir?

REP D. FOX (148th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has an amendment, LCO Number 5225. I ask that the amendment please be called and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Will the Clerk please call calendar -- I'm sorry, LCO 5225 which will be designated House Amendment "A".

THE CLERK:

House Amendment "A", LCO 5225, as introduced by Speaker Sharkey.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Gentleman has sought leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Seeing none, you may proceed with summarization, sir.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today and will provide a bit of a description primarily to Section 1 of LCO 5225, the balance of the amendment is primarily a conforming change. Section 1, Mr. Speaker, provides that any property that is on the taxable grand list as of October 1, 2013, and acquired after July 1, 2014, by an institution, facility, or hospital, that owns property for which pilot payments are currently made, will continue to be taxable.

Mr. Speaker, any municipality may by ordinance, exempt hospital or college property within its boundaries from this provision and they would then

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

56
May 3, 2014

thereafter continue to receive pilot payments as usual. Pilot payments would continue for other property owned by the hospital or college and not acquired after July 1, 2014. Mr. Speaker, I move adoption.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment "A". Will you remark? Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Looking at the amendment that's coming forward, I will be supporting it. When the original draft bill was heard in our committee I was very much against it. I thought it was a very complicated bill the way it was presented. I also felt that the retroactive parts of it were not to the advantage of the state and I thought it was going to lead to fights between the municipalities and our institutions. This amendment eliminates those objections that I had to it and so I'll be supporting it. It has also gone forward that it affects only those institutions that are purchasing

property after July. It solves a problem that we're having as the hospitals and the colleges are expanding and taking in many, many auxiliary services outside of the traditional college or hospital function and therefore they allow more and more property coming off the tax rolls being funded with pilot -- the pilot money is limited and therefore gets divided smaller. So I think this bill actually does a good job of addressing that.

The one question that I do have regarding it is on the personal property side. Is this only for the real estate or is it all -- does it cover personal property also?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Yes, Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the Ranking Member for his question. The amendment pertains to real estate improvements but not personal property, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Thank you very much for the clarification.

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

58
May 3, 2014

Again, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and then the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Would you care to remark further on House Amendment "A"? Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

One question through you to the proponent of the amendment, please.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

I had spoken with one of my local hospitals in the area and they were talking about property taxes. I'm assuming they're referring to the underlying bill but through you, Mr. Speaker, looking at this, this property tax, I guess exemption, only happens to facilities that are in a pilot program, through you, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Yes, the Representative is correct, through you,

Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

So through you, Mr. Speaker, non-profit hospitals in the State of Connecticut right now, do pay property tax in general unless they're part of this pilot program, through you, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Mr. Speaker, the underlying amendment pertains to institutions currently receiving the benefits of the pilot program, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and I understand where trying to make that dollar goes a lot further, so I'll support the amendment, thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on House Amendment "A"?

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

60
May 3, 2014

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Those opposed, nay.

The ayes have it.

The amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. MINER (66th):

If I might through you, just a couple of questions to the proponent of the bill, please?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Through you, so with the passage of this amendment, non-taxable real estate owned by not-for-profit hospitals and higher education institutions

would be subject to general taxation at the local level on anything they acquired after a certain date, is that correct, through you?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Representative is correct provided that they are receiving pilot payments, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Miner.

REP. MINER (66th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fact that you and others have taken a fair amount of time to consider what is currently going on in the State of Connecticut with regard to the pilot program. There's no -- there should be no doubt in anybody's mind, we as a Legislature have failed to fund that formula so we have failed to fund the formula to the lawful extend that would provide municipalities what they are rightfully due for these institutions.

I think this is an interesting way of looking at

that dilemma because it kind of holds people harmless to what inaction we have taken in the past and says on a go forward basis when you acquire something, you and the town will enter into the kind of taxation relationship that towns have with just about everybody else.

I wish we had continued to fund the formula, to be quite honest with you because I think what this does is it begins to mix the conversations that have been had at the local level for years and that is that historically non-profits, those with maybe recreational, educational backgrounds, have historically benefited from a whole host of tax policies that we as a Legislature have thought were appropriate.

And so now we're going to draw a line on a date and say we get what we did before, but if you buy something from this point forward, now you're going to pay tax. I'm hoping this isn't the last time we look at this. I'm hoping that maybe we continue the conversation I think Mr. Speaker, that you've championed which is we've got to figure out a way to do this.

Because I do know at the local level it does

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

63
May 3, 2014

create a certain friction whether it's at the hospital level, high education level, private school level, we can go on and on. I think we could name them all in our communities. So I'll sit and listen to what other comments might be made and I do appreciate that we are going down this road. I wish it was another way.

Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a question through you to the proponent of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. ARCONTI (109th):

If there are renovations or additions on the current property, will that be subject to the property tax after July 1?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

64
May 3, 2014

REP D. FOX (148th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank Representative Arconti for the question. So long as the -- there are essentially two -- I don't want to say standards, but two levels that have to be met, so long as the property that is on the taxable grand list as of October 1, 2013, if the current property -- if the property you're referring to Representative in your hypothetical is currently non-taxable, then that would continue to receive the benefits of the pilot program currently, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Arconti.

REP. ARCONTI (109th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just briefly I wanted to thank you for your leadership on this issue. You know not every town,

not every city has a relationship like for example New Haven has with Yale where Yale contributes millions of dollars every year to the operating fund -- operating budget of New Haven. Some towns you literally have universities snapping up private residences, dozens of them on a yearly basis for student housing that obviously removes taxable property from the tax rolls, it leads to other issues in terms of student relationships with the town.

This bill does a nice job in giving the towns a little bit of leverage in that situation. Frankly I wish it was retrospective instead of just prospective but I appreciate that there's issues with that and like Representative Miner, I look forward to continuing a discussion on this issue next year and maybe we can enact more a C change in how we approach property taxes in the State of Connecticut. Thank you.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir and Amen.

Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I too would like to echo some of my colleague's statements about further dialogue on this issue. It's an important one even in small towns like mine where you have a different sort of institution that may be a non-profit.

I just have one question for the proponent if I may through you. On Sections -- on lines 18 and 19 it talks about a municipality made by ordinance exempt all property from the provisions of this section and I'm just looking for some clarification on those lines, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the Representative for her question. To clarify lines 18 to 19, those two lines are referring to the fact that any municipality may by ordinance exempt hospital or college property within its boundaries from the provisions contained above in Section 1. Then they would continue to receive pilot payments as usual, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Ziobron.

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

67
May 3, 2014

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate the answer. So just to further clarify, you only mentioned two things, hospitals and higher ed institutions. So through you, Mr. Speaker, are those the only two that a municipality could exempt or were you just condensing that list for discussion, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the Representative for her question. Just to clarify through you, Mr. Speaker, she's just asking to identify the institutions that are applicable to Section 1, whether that is just limited to non-profit hospitals and institutions of higher learning, through you, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Yes, it is, that's perfect. Thank you for framing that for me, and through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

68
May 3, 2014

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would direct the Representative's attention to line 5 of the amendment before the Chamber. It makes reference to the provisions of Subdivision 7, 8 and 16 of Section 12-81. Those sections specifically refer to Section 7 of 12-81 refers to property used for scientific, educational, literary, historical, charitable or open space land preservation purposes. Section 8 of 12-81 specifically refers to college property and Section 16, Mr. Speaker, refers to hospitals and sanatoriums, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON (34th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you so much to my good Representative for explaining to me what those Subsections mean because many times as we're looking at these bills, they're full of numbers and it's hard to understand what those numbers go back to relate to, so I really do appreciate that. That fully answers my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, Madame.

Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. If I may a question to the proponent?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I apologize. I was engaged in another conversation and I just caught a piece of this. Could the proponent reference how this may impact the three endowed academies that we have in the state? Would those still have the potential to be able to move forward without taxation on those property's expansion plans, through you, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Can he just -- I didn't understand the three -- there was a word between three and academy that I

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

70
May 3, 2014

didn't quite catch, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Alberts, please clarify you're your question is.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Absolutely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There are three endowed academies in the state, that would be Norwich Free Academy, Gilbert School and Woodstock Academy. These have special Legislative status. I just want to ensure that what the parameters are for those three schools, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX ,(148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker I believe to address the Representative's question, that those institutions are not eligible because they are not eligible for pilot payments, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Alberts.

REP. ALBERTS (50th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

djp/gbr.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

71
May 3, 2014

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Carter.

REP: CARTER (2nd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, just a question through you to the proponent of the bill.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I'm looking at the July 14th date and it talks about acquired, that means all the closings and everything have to be done by that date and it has to be officially owned by the institution, through you, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Yes, Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank Representative Carter for the question. His interpretation is correct. It is pertaining to land or property acquired on or after July 1, 2014. So up until June 30th, I guess June 30th at 11:59 o'clock p.m., thereafter to further identify that

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

72
May 3, 2014

phrase, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I didn't have the luxury of being in the Chamber a moment ago. I know there was a question asked about construction. Somebody asked about construction of hospitals, so this will not affect anybody's construction that's going on now or any property or real property that they own, through you, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

That's correct, Mr. Speaker.

Again, the Representative is correct so long as the property was acquired prior to that July 1, 2014, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I've had a chance now to become more familiar with the bill and what's going on. Looking at this I

do have a concern. I have a large concern that this is going to make it difficult for some of the hospitals in our state to expand. I mean, as you know, our goal is now is to create these accountable care models, or accountable care organizations, and with that they are buying up some properties around the area near the hospital.

Now it's very difficult for an institution who might be receiving these pilot dollars to go out and target something that was owned by maybe another non-profit and that's what we're asking them to do in a sense. So I think looking at this where as a state we may be worried about revenues and our grand list and property taxes, I think that could actually create a real hardship for some of these institutions and certainly it creates something else that they really have to think about before they're going to be purchasing buildings and trying to expand and make their accountable care model work.

The other concern I have is as you know there are profit hospitals and there are not-for-profit hospitals. If we find ourselves in a situation where there's going to be a profit or I would say a non-profit hospital trying to purchase or merge with a for

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

74
May 3, 2014

profit hospital, this would actually affect them greatly and I would say almost prohibit it because the way I understand this and I'll ask the question, through you, Mr. Speaker, is if an institution currently is a non-profit and wants to buy a for profit institution of some kind, they're going to have to pay property tax on those assets, is that correct, through you, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My understanding is that I believe the Representative is correct. So long as the property which the non-profit is acquiring is currently taxable property. I think that's the catchall, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Carter.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

All right. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and I thank the good chair for his answers and I'll listen to any further debate as we move along. Thank you.

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

75
May 3, 2014

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you, sir.

Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Rovero. Representative Rovero, did you wish to speak on the bill as amended?

REP. ROVERO (51st):

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry.

I had one question. How does this affect the hospital, it's a non-profit hospital and now it's sold to a for profit company. Does that for profit company just have to pay 100 percent taxes?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The subject property that the Representative is referring to in his example, it's the status of the property as of the grand list of October 1, 2013, through you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Rovero.

REP. ROVERO (51st):

I'm not sure I really understand. In other words, what I'm saying is if I have a non-profit

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

76
May 3, 2014

hospital and I sell it to a for profit institution, a business, are they -- do they have to pay 100 percent of the property tax like anybody else in that town?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Yes, Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'm trying to understand the Representative's questions. I think he's -- the underlying bill makes reference to the pilot program and payments made by the pilot program and I just want to clarify if the Representative is asking as to the payments of the pilot program or I guess, the short answer, Mr. Speaker, can the Representative please clarify his question?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Rovero, can you just repeat your question?

REP. ROVERO (51st):

What I'm really asking is if I have a non-profit hospital that does not pay taxes except from the pilot and they're going to pay tax on the new property they're purchasing, if I was to sell that entire institution to a for profit company, would all of this

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

77
May 3, 2014

go away and the new institution have to pay 100 percent taxes like any other business or entity in the town?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Fox.

REP D. FOX (148th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Representative Rovero.

REP. ROVERO' (51st):

Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Thank you,, sir.

Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Representative Molgano.

REP. MOLGANO (144th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. MOLGANO (144th):

How are you doing, sir?

I don't have any questions to the proponent of the bill, I just wanted to make a comment. In my City

djp/gbr
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

78
May 3, 2014

of Stamford, we have one hospital, one hospital only and it's a not-for-profit. And this hospital does partner with many non-profit health and social service organizations. This proposed bill concerns me deeply and I cannot in all good conscience support it. I just hope that my colleagues will join me in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER SHARKEY

Thank you, sir.

Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House? Will the members please take your seats? The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

Members to the Chamber please. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will members please return to the Chamber immediately?

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Will the members please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will

take a tally.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5530 as amended by House "A".

Total Number Voting	139
Necessary for Passage	70
Those voting Yea	94
Those voting Nay	45
Those absent and not voting	12

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

The bill as amended passes.

Are there any announcements or introductions?

Representative Aresimowicz.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

For the purposes of an introduction.

SPEAKER SHARKEY:

Before you proceed, sir, let me just ask the Chamber if they could direct their attention to the Majority Leader.

You may proceed, sir.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I understand time is precious but I

**S - 679
CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2014**

**VETO
SESSION**

**VOL. 57
PART 11
3246 – 3508**

pat/gbr
SENATE

273
May 7, 2014

House Bill 5115, move to place on the Consent
Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And also, Madam President, Calendar 500 on Page 17,
Calendar 5547, move to place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Moving to Calendar Page
18, where there is one item, Calendar 507, House Bill
5530, move to place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Moving to Calendar Page
19, where we have four items. The First, Calendar
514, House Bill 5521, move to place on the Consent
Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And the second, Calendar 516, House Bill 5500, move to
place on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

pat/gbr
SENATE

290
May 7, 2014

003475

Calendar 500, House Bill 5547.

On Page 18, Calendar 507, House Bill 5530.

On Page 19, Calendar 512, House Bill 5386.

Calendar 514, House Bill 5521.

Calendar 516, House Bill 5500.

Calendar 517, House Bill 5305.

On Page 20, Calendar 527, House Bill 5592.

Calendar 528, House Bill 5453.

On Page 21, Calendar 531, House Bill 5299.

Calendar 533, House Bill 5290.

On Page 22, Calendar 541, House Bill 5456.

Calendar 539, House Bill 5294.

On Page 24, Calendar 551, House Bill 5588.

Calendar 552, House Bill 5269.

On Page 25, Calendar 564, House Bill 5489.

Calendar 562, House Bill 5446.

(HB5466)

On Page 26 --

THE CHAIR:

Hold on. Okay. Sorry. Please proceed.

THE CLERK:

On Page 26, Calendar 568, House Bill 5434.

Calendar 569, House Bill 5040.

Calendar 566, House Bill 5535.

pat/gbr
SENATE

295
May 7, 2014

SENATOR LOONEY:

If we might pause for just a moment to verify a couple of additional items.

Madam President, to verify an additional item, I believe it was placed on the Consent Calendar and Calendar Page 30, on Calendar Page 30, Calendar 592, Substitute for House Bill 5476.

THE CHAIR:

It is, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

It is on? Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. If the Clerk would now, finally, Agenda Number 4, Madam President, Agenda Number 4 one additional item ask for suspension to place up on Agenda Number 4 and that is, ask for suspension to place on the Consent Calendar an item from Agenda Number 4.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President, and that item is Substitute House Bill Number 5566 from Senate Agenda Number 4.

Thank you, Madam President. If the Clerk would now, if we might call for a vote on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. Will you please call for a Roll Call Vote on the Consent Calendar. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

An immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate.

pat/gbr
SENATE

296
May 7, 2014

An immediate Roll Call on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, all members have voted, the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

Consent Calendar Number 2.

Total number voting	36
Necessary for adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Two additional items to take up before the, our final vote on the implementer. If we might stand for just, for just a moment.

The first item to mark Go is, Calendar, to remove from the Consent Calendar, Calendar Page 22, Calendar 536, House Bill 5546. If that item might be marked Go.

And one additional item, Madam President, and that was from Calendar, or rather from Agenda Number 4, ask for suspension to take it up for purposes of marking it Go, that is House Bill, Substitute for House Bill 5417. Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
PART 4
1268 – 1862**

2014

SENATOR GERRATANA: Thank you, Commissioner. You can continue on with your testimony for the other bills, and then we'll come back for questions. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER JEWEL MULLEN: Okay. All right. And I don't intend to read the testimony for the others. I will just mention Senate Bill 414, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING GENEALOGISTS' ACCESS TO VITAL AREAS, which essentially requests that we continue to provide access for doing searches but that we establish an appointment system so that access can be provided at a time when genealogists can get the attention that they need from our staff at the same time that we don't create other burdens for individuals and staff who might be working on confidential information or do -- or -- or be otherwise preoccupied in ways that they wouldn't be able to provide the assistance to the genealogists that they had accessed just throughout the day.

SB416
HB5530

Senate Bill 418 regarding the Department of Public Health's recommendations for medical spas essentially clarifies what cosmetics -- what -- I mean, what cosmetic procedures are and also designates which professionals -- physicians, physicians assistance, and nurse practitioners -- may be the supervising authorities in -- in medical spas and -- and within that authority have the clarity and -- and oversight of which professionals can perform which procedures.

House Bill 5504, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND DISTRICTS, requires or requests that local -- municipalities who do not expend their entire

per capital -- per capita allocation from our local health administration line return that money to the state.

Our goal is that the funds that go out to municipalities for public health be used for public health improvements in the municipalities. But we understand that there are -- are municipalities that do not use those funds. A provision such as -- as this allows for future possibilities that monies designated for public health will be used for public health someplace in the state even if they're not being used in the municipality that we hoped we'd be using.

Senate Bill 416, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ADVANCED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, acknowledges that the certification for AEMTs was originally implemented at a time when -- when the kinds of services in here that would be provided by those providers was perhaps the best at that time period almost 30 years ago. But over time the -- the experience, the expertise, and the -- the services provided have changed in such a way that AEMTs are no longer felt to be a level of care provider that fits within our system of paramedics and emergency medical service providers.

House Bill 5530, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING BULK WATER HAULERS. Bulk water hauling is something that's done as a temporary measure to ensure that there is an adequate supply of drinkable water during an interruption of a water service. And what this bill does is actually just spell out that the safety of the water and sanitary conditions and

53
cip/gbr PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 14, 2014
9:00 A.M.

the water quality are going to be upheld. I'm happy to take your questions.

SENATOR GERRATANA: Is that it?

COMMISSIONER JEWEL MULLEN: I hope so.

SENATOR GERRATANA: I'm furiously taking notes here. Actually, I did have some questions. I'm -- we're going to go back to the -- I think it's -- oh, dear, 55 -- is it 27, the technical bill?

A VOICE: (Inaudible).

SENATOR GERRATANA: Yeah. Hold on. 5537, is that it? Okay. Let's see, in Section 14, you are -- or the recommendation is to eliminate the yearly urinalysis in a nursing home setting. And I know we had a bill just to the contrary, and we were somewhat assured that, well, currently when a patient is admitted into a nursing home setting that they do have what I would call, you know, a history and a physical and a workup, and vitals are taken, including certain, you know, lab tests, including a urinalysis.

And why is it your recommendation to eliminate this particularly since I know we -- we've had testimony saying that it should be done on -- at least on a yearly basis?

COMMISSIONER JEWEL MULLEN: Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released information on the overuse and inappropriate use of antibiotics in the -- in the population. And a lot of what was cited there was misuse of and overuse of antibiotics in the hospital setting but also in community settings.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**PUBLIC
HEALTH
PART 5
1863 – 2202**

2014

MTAC MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

MICHAEL J RILEY
PRESIDENT

**Statement of Michael J. Riley
President
Motor Transport Association of Connecticut
Before
The Joint Committee on Public Health
March 14, 2014**

**Re: A Proposed Amendment to House Bill No. 5530 AN ACT
CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING BULK
WATER HAULERS.**

I am Michael J. Riley, President of Motor Transport Association of Connecticut (MTAC), a statewide trade association, which represents over 800 companies that operate commercial motor vehicles in and through the state of Connecticut. Our membership includes freight haulers, movers of household goods, construction companies, distributors, tank truck operators and hundreds of companies that use trucks in their business and firms that provide goods and services to truck owners.

MTAC supports an amendment to this bill.

Bill No. 5530 came to our attention yesterday and raised some concerns on the part of certain of our members who haul water used to fill swimming pools.

It appears that the bill's intent is to assure that potable water, intended for human consumption, is transported in responsible ways that do not compromise the quality of water. We have no problem, if that is all that the bill does.

However, there are many instances when water may be transported for purposes not intended for human consumption. We have a few members who transport water for swimming pools, construction companies use water to keep dust down on projects, and farmers regularly transport water for use



60 FOREST STREET • HARTFORD, CT 06105-3200 • TEL (860) 520-4455 • FAX (860) 520-1567



MTAC *MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT, INC*

MICHAEL J RILEY
PRESIDENT

in irrigation, feeding of livestock and for other reasons. Some fire trucks are in fact water transporters.

We do not see any value in requiring an additional license to haul water for these purposes.

In conclusion, we think that the scope of the bill as written is too broad. Therefore, we request that the be redrafted to more narrowly focus on the transportation of water for human consumption or amended to exempt swimming pool water, agricultural water, water carried in fire apparatus and perhaps other uses.

Thank you.

If additional information is required of me, please call my cell phone 860-402-4542.



60 FOREST STREET • HARTFORD, CT 06105-3200 • TEL. (860) 520-4435 • FAX (860) 520-4567





Testimony
Elizabeth Gara
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)
Before the
Public Health Committee
March 14, 2014

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) *supports with revisions* **HB - 5530 - CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING BULK WATER HAULERS.**

CWWA, which represents municipal, private and regional water companies, supports efforts to regulate bulk haulers to ensure that water meets appropriate water quality standards. For small systems, in particular, bulk haulers are like the cavalry and are relied upon to supplement water supplies under certain circumstances. As such, it is critical that safeguards are in place to ensure that bulk haulers provide water that meets or exceeds state and federal water quality standards.

However, CWWA notes that a provision in Section 1(e) appears to limit the ability of public water suppliers to utilize bulk water hauling to meet certain public water supply needs. Although we recognize that bulk water to supplement supplies should not be used on a permanent basis, there are occasions where public water suppliers have encountered difficulties or delays in obtaining permits, land, etc. needed to develop or upgrade a supply to provide a long-term solution. Under these circumstances, bulk haulers are critical to meeting the public health and safety needs of residents.

Moreover, the term "temporary" is not defined and will invite different interpretations that may create issues in meeting certain water supply needs. Further, it is not and should not be the licensed haulers' responsibility to judge or be involved in regulatory actions between the state Department of Public Health and any regulated water utility regarding the appropriate duration for use of bulk water deliveries.

To address these concerns, CWWA recommends that the following sentence in Section 1(e) lines 29-31 be deleted, "*Bulk water hauling to a public water system shall be permitted only as a temporary measure to alleviate the public water system's short-term water supply shortage.*" Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We are always available to meet with committee members to discuss these issues more fully.

We also recommend that in establishing the requirements to ensure that any water transported by a bulk water hauler is fit for human consumption, the department require haulers to use vehicles with the appropriate equipment, such as air-gapped hard-piped fill, to safeguard against any potential cross contamination issues. Also, tanks should be maintained in such a manner as to ensure the water is potable.



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 14, 2014

Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
860-509-7101

**House Bill 5530 - An Act Concerning The Department of Public Health's Recommendations
Regarding Bulk Water Haulers**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports House Bill 5530 and would like to thank the Public Health Committee for raising the Department's bill. DPH is proposing this bill to ensure the safety of water hauled to public water systems, and, consequently, protect the health of the customers of public water systems.

Bulk hauling of water to public water systems is a temporary measure to ensure an adequate supply of potable water is maintained during an interruption of water service. The DPH will develop an application process and will review and approve water haulers to assure the safety and sanitary conditions of water quality used in these temporary practices.

The Department respectfully requests the following modifications to the language in the raised bill:

Given that the focus of the bill is the safety of individuals consuming water that has been hauled to a public water system by a bulk water hauler, the Department requests replacing the word "from" with the word "to" in line 5. The Department is not seeking to regulate individuals who haul water "from a public water system" if the intention is not for the water to ultimately be consumed.

The Department would also like to add a provision requiring notification to the public water system in which the hauled water will be discharged. This will ensure the water is properly treated upon discharge. DPH suggests adding the following language to line 29: "No bulk water hauler shall deliver water to a customer of a public water company without first notifying the public water company of such delivery."

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

*Phone: (860) 509-7269, Fax: (860) 509-7100, Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE, P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134
An Equal Opportunity Employer*

Jack, 5330

Good Morning Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Jack, and I'm an 8th grader. I have been able to play safely on the grass at recess thanks, to a ban on toxic lawn pesticides.

But, since kindergarten, my friends and I have been going to our football practices, lacrosse practices, and baseball practices at our high school. My father has been my coach for every single one of my seasons. My mother and sisters have come to every single game that I have played on these fields. We have all spent many hours sitting in the grass. We have leaned back on our hands and never thought about the chemicals in the grass getting absorbed into our bodies through our skin.

I recently learned that we have been exposed to dangerous chemicals in the grass for all those years. And my puppy, Mojo, who runs free on the fields every day, has been exposed as well.

I am in support of HB 5330, because next year I'm going to high school. I don't want to play on grass covered in toxic chemicals, whether I'm at school, the town soccer fields, or at a park. I don't want my family, friends, or dog to get sick in the future.

Please vote in support of this bill. Thank you.

Testimony of Ellen McCormick of
ConnFACT (CT Families Against Chemical Trespass)
Before the Connecticut General Assembly
Public Health
Friday, March 14, 2012

Testimony in support of HB #5330

AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT PARKS,
PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS.

My name is Ellen McCormick and my testimony is in support of HB#5330. I live in Weston, CT and I am here as a grandmother of five young children and representing ConnFACT (CT Families Against Chemical Trespass). We are the parent organization of GMOfreeCT and I think you might remember our constituents from last year's GMO labeling bill. They're a group with a tremendous amount of perseverance and information on pesticides and chemicals as many of them have been affected by these chemicals which has spurred them on to fight the invasion of unwanted chemicals.

In Section 1a and 1b I would encourage you to strengthen the language about the use of integrative pest management. We all know that's a marketing term for using less pesticides but it isn't always used judiciously due to a lack of training or common sense. What constitutes an application of pesticides to eliminate an immediate threat to human health? How will that be determined and will that application be put in a record so there is a control of who used it, how much of a chemical was applied, where was it used, and why!

Mothers have over 280 chemicals, at a minimum, in their blood that is passed along to their newborns. Protecting our mothers of child-bearing age and our children from toxic chemicals is URGENT. And what better place to do that then on school grounds, parks, playgrounds and athletic fields and municipal greens where they

walk and take their pets and children to play. Is it right that play should result in the insidious intake of chemicals that will harm children and pets and mothers-to-be for life and into future generations?

This is not a decision that should languish in our legislature and it is not something that is up for debate any longer. It is so! The scientific studies prove it!! And now it is your job to pass this bill to protect them. They are in your hands!

There is a 20% rise in children's brain cancer and leukemia since the 1970s.

There has been a rise in adult cancers – breast, testicular and prostate among them.

There has been a dramatic rise in learning and behavioral disorders including a ten-fold increase in autism spectrum disorder over the last 15 years and ADHD affecting over 2 million children in the U.S.

There has been a rise in reproductive disorders with 40% more women experiencing difficulty conceiving and maintaining a pregnancy in 2002 than did in 1982.

There have been significant rises in asthma, insulin-resistance and diabetes.

When I was growing up there was very little infertility. Now, it's rampant. Women now worry about not getting pregnant!!

There are no more questions about whether these chemicals are dangerous or not. The science is in! They are dangerous!! Why are these chemicals in our products since we know they are harmful? Since our government regulatory agencies are remiss in allowing these chemicals into our products, we now need your assistance in protecting us at the state level from their irresponsibility. Let's reward those who are being responsible and seeking good solutions to their health problems and not the chemical companies who have

bought our FDA, USDA and EPA which curtails any meaningful legislation at the federal level. I'm certain the profits of chemical companies and consumer products should not trump the health of our families and in particular our children and women of childbearing age. Please understand the urgency of the fact that each generation's DNA will get worse. That is a certainty.

Please pass HB #5330. Thank you!



Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
775 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor, CT 06095-2322
(860) 768-1100 • Fax (860) 768-1108 • www.cfba.org

March 14, 2014

Submitted by: Henry N. Talmage, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and Members of the Committee on Public Health:

Raised Bill No. 5530 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING BULK WATER CARRIERS.

The Connecticut Farm Bureau believes that the definition of "bulk water hauling" in Section 1 of the bill should be amended to encompass the transporting of water "to" a public water system not "from" a public water system.



Written Testimony
 Erica Fearn, Executive Director
 Opposition to House Bill 5330

An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens
 Friday, March 14, 2014
 Public Health Committee

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and the distinguished member of the Public Health Committee, my name is Erica Fearn, I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Environmental Council (CTEC). I appreciate this opportunity to offer my comments in opposition to House Bill 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens.

CTEC is a membership organization representing associations and professionals. Our membership includes the Connecticut Groundskeepers Association, the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, the Connecticut Pest Control Association, the Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association, and the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

During the 2005 session, CTEC supported legislation that permitted pest controls to be applied to public and private schools 8th grade or under if the applications adhered to an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. In addition, the schools IPM plan must be consistent with DEEP's Model Pest Control Management Plan. From January 1, 2006 until the July 1, 2010 sunset, school grounds were well maintained using the best management practices of IPM.

State law defines IPM as "the judicious use of pesticides to maintain a pest population at or below an acceptable level, while decreasing the use of pesticides." As a result of IPM's judicious methods of applying lawn care pesticides, over the four years of the pilot program tons of active ingredients were withheld from use on school grounds. During the pilot, the IPM approach was proven to be safe, reliable and an effective way of applying lawn care pesticides, while protecting the financial investment towns have made in athletic fields and school grounds.

Since the July 1, 2010 sunset athletic fields and school grounds have fallen into disrepair with pest populations growing out of control making athletic fields unplayable due to hard and uneven playing surfaces and infestations of insects, both stinging and turf damaging. Healthy turf creates a cushion preventing injury to children playing on the surface. Attached to my testimony are two pictures of a middle school baseball field in West Haven. Under the IPM pilot program this athletic field was well maintained and provided a safe playing surface for many different teams during the year. The second picture was taken just 12 months after the ban. This field is unplayable and not safe for students to use. As a result, students from this school are now playing their games on a park and recreations field, which is not subject to the ban. Unfortunately this example is being repeated in many towns in the state.

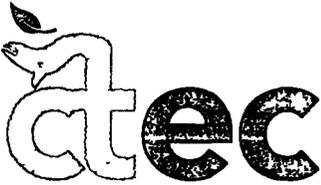
The ban has left our members; the licensed, educated professionals that take care of school grounds without the proper tools to maintain healthy playing surfaces for our children. Instead we are left with untested and unregulated chemicals lacking sound science - a true disservice to our children and their safety. This legislation would create the same, and even more hazards by not allowing control of pests and further letting invasive species of pests invade and affect the ability to fully utilize and enjoy our municipal lands.

CTEC, as well as over twenty municipal organizations responsible for the care of school grounds, recommend a balanced science based approach to ensure that our communities have safe and pest free parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and municipal greens. The current Kto8 ban simply does not work and certainly should not be expanded to include high schools and other municipal fields. We respectfully request that you not move forward with this proposal.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide you with this testimony.

17 Rivendell Road, Marlborough, CT 06447
 CTEC@ctenvironmentalfacts.org

(203) 758-7297, (860) 228-1337 fax
 www.ctenvironmentalfacts.org

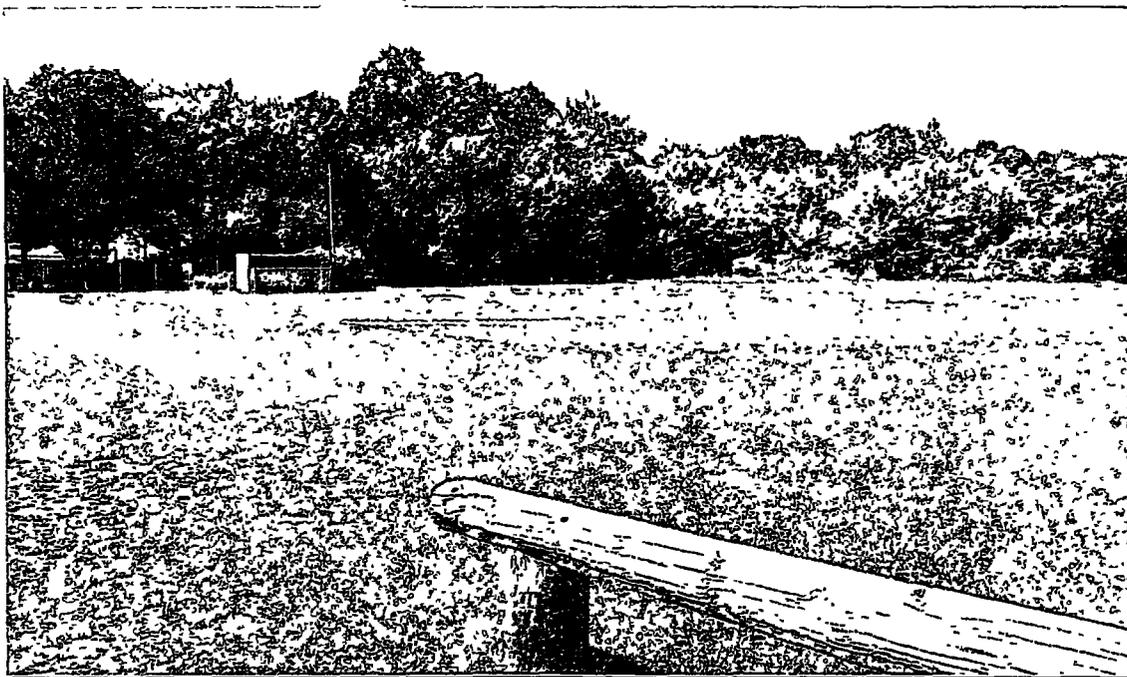


Connecticut Environmental Council

Harry M. Bailey Middle School, West Haven, CT
Before the Ban on Pesticides



After the Ban on Pesticides - July 2011





March 14, 2014

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF CT 5330
An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds,
Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens

Submitted by: Tara Cook-Littman, 160 Stella Lane, Fairfield, CT

My name is Tara Cook-Littman and I am most importantly a mother of three children. I am a former New York City Prosecutor and currently the chair of ConnFACT (Connecticut Families Against Chemical Trespass), the organization that grew from the roots of GMO Free CT. Our mission is to educate and inform the residents of Connecticut about the health, environmental, ethical, and economic issues related to the toxic chemicals we are exposed to daily without our knowledge or consent. Last year, my faith in democracy was restored because all of you heard your constituents and took action to provide us with a transparent food system by passing the first-in-the-nation GMO Labeling Law. It is my hope that you will once again put the health and welfare of Connecticut residents above the corporate interests that benefit from the sale and use of toxic chemical pesticides.

I struggled while writing my testimony for this bill because it just seems self evident that we should not be spraying toxic chemicals where children play. What more should I say? Why does this statement even need to be justified. It is my job as a mother to protect my children. I do everything I can in and around my home to keep toxic chemicals out. Never did I imagine needing to protect my children from toxic chemicals in the places where they play, but children everywhere are unknowingly being exposed daily.

Children should be able to play on playgrounds, in parks, and on sports fields without being exposed to toxic chemical pesticides. And, parents should be able to watch their children play without being concerned that their health is being jeopardized. Last summer when I took my children to a playground, they left the area with the slides and swings to run around in the grass instead. I would have loved to watch them run and

chase each other in the grass, but concerned about pesticides, I called out "don't play in the grass." Let me repeat that, I had to tell my children not to play in the grass. How do I explain to children under ten that the grass was poisonous and could cause serious health problems?

Children are our most vulnerable citizens. Studies link lawn pesticides with cancer, birth defects, hyperactivity, and developmental delays to name a few. Connecticut did the right thing when they banned pesticide use in schools through 8th grade, but what happens when these children are on playgrounds, in parks, or playing soccer on a municipal playing field? We must expand the existing law to protect children everywhere they may play.

I'm not sure when or how perfectly manicured grass became the norm in this country. I personally appreciate the biodiversity in my lawn and enjoy the dandelions and the purple flowers that appear every year. But, for those circumstances where manicured grass is required, for instance on playing fields, there are safe, effective, affordable alternatives to toxic lawn pesticides. However, I suspect that the pesticide industry does not want us to be aware of these alternatives because it would hurt their bottom line. Toxic lawn chemicals are wreaking havoc on our health and environment. We cannot continue to put corporate profits above the welfare of the citizens of this state. Please vote yes on HB 5330.

I would also like to recommend that HB 5330 be amended to include a ban on the sale and planting of genetically engineered grass and other genetically engineered garden perennials in the state of Connecticut. This past summer, the United States Department of Agriculture announced that Scott's Miracle-Gro's glyphosate resistant Kentucky bluegrass would be exempt from testing. Scott's later announced that field tests would begin as Scott's employees would be planting this grass at their homes. This GMO grass is exempt from any federal oversight because it is engineered in a different way than other GE crops thereby opening the door to other genetically engineered products slipping through the cracks without any oversight.

Currently, glyphosate is used to spot treat weeds on lawns, but if the new glyphosate resistant grass is planted, rather than spot treating, glyphosate will be used to blanket the entire lawn. The use of pesticides has already increased by millions of pounds because of genetically engineered crops. This grass will drastically increase the use of glyphosate, a toxic chemical that is scientifically proven to cause health problems in humans and animals and is wreaking havoc on our environment. Once this genetically engineered grass is released into our environment there is no way to recall it as seen by field tests conducted on Genetically engineered wheat that later contaminated the wheat crops in Oregon last year. Since the USDA has refused to regulate the genetically engineered grass, Connecticut lawmakers have a responsibility to protect the citizens of this state from the unknown consequences that may result from the planting of Scott's Glyphosate resistant grass.



Lawn Pesticide Fact Sheet

- Of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides, 19 have studies linking them with cancer, 13 are linked with **birth defects**, 21 with **reproductive effects**, 15 with **neurotoxicity or abnormal brain development**.¹
- **Children are particularly susceptible** because of their rapid growth and decreased ability to detoxify toxins.^{2,3} This is particularly true for the developing child *in utero*.
- **Studies link some lawn pesticides to hyperactivity, developmental delays, behavioral disorder, and motor dysfunction.**^{4,5,6}
- A Study in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute found that home and garden use of pesticides can **increase the risk of childhood leukemia by almost seven times**.⁷
- **The lag time between environmental exposure and the development of lymphoma can be as long as 20 years.**⁸
- **Lawn pesticides can be tracked inside of schools** where they can persist for long periods of time contaminating air, dust, surfaces, and carpets and exposing children to these toxic chemicals even if they are not in contact with the grass.⁹
- **There is provision for pesticide use if there is a condition that threatens the health and safety of the children.** For example, an underground wasp nest or an infestation of ticks.
- **There are significant gaps in the safety testing of toxic lawn pesticides.**¹⁰
 - **Lawn pesticides are not tested for long term toxicity** unless they are also used on food crops.
 - **Lawn pesticides are not tested in the combinations and formulations in which they are actually used.** Yet, these combinations and formulations can be more toxic than the pure active ingredient.¹⁵
 - **It is the chemical companies themselves that provide the safety testing data to the Environmental Protection Agency.**
 - **The official protocol used to test pesticides is no guarantee of scientific reliability and validity.**¹⁴
- **Lawn pesticides can contaminate well water.** 11% of residential wells tested in a Connecticut town showed the presence of one or more lawn pesticides.¹¹
- **There are safe, effective, affordable alternatives** to using toxic lawn pesticides. A number of towns in Connecticut have successfully switched to pesticide-free organic lawn care.^{12, 13}
- **With so many unknowns and with plausible evidence of harm to children, it makes no sense for our children to be involuntarily exposed to the unnecessary use of these toxic chemicals especially when there are safe, effective, affordable alternatives.**



ConnFACT

The Watershed Partnership, Inc.

References

- 1 Beyond Pesticides. <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/lawn/factsheets/30health.pdf> (accessed 12-20-2013)
- 2 National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences. 1993. Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children, National Academy Press, Washington, DC: 184-185.
- 3 US EPA, Office of the Administrator, Environmental Health Threats to Children, EPA 175-F-96-001, September 1996. See also: www.epa.gov/pesticides/food/pest.htm. (accessed 12-20-2013)
- 4 National Research Council. 2000. Scientific frontiers in developmental toxicology and risk assessment. <http://dels.nas.edu/Report/Scientific-Frontiers-Developmental-Toxicology/9871> (accessed 12-20-2013)
- 5 Washington, DC: National Academy Press. Physicians for Social Responsibility, The National Environmental Trust, and The Learning Disabilities Association of America. 2000. Polluting our future: Chemical pollution in the U.S. that affects child development and learning. <http://grconnect.com/reports/pollutingourfuture.pdf> (accessed 12-20-2013)
- 6 Cox C. 2004. Journal Of Pesticide Reform. Vol. 24 (4) citing: Garry, V.F. et al. 2002. "Birth defects, season of conception, and sex of children born to pesticide applicators living in the Red River Valley of Minnesota." Environmental Health Perspectives, 110 (Suppl. 3):441-449. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1241196/> (accessed 12-20-2013)
- 7 Lowengart, R. et al. 1987. "Childhood Leukemia and Parent's Occupational and Home Exposures," Journal of the National Cancer Institute 79:39. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/3474448> (accessed 12-20-2013)
- 8 Spatial-temporal analysis of non-Hodgkin lymphoma in the NCI-SEER NHL case-control study Environmental Health, www.ehjournal.net/content/10/1/63 (June 2011) <http://www.ehjournal.net/content/10/1/63> (accessed 12-20-2013)
- 9 Nishioka, M., et al. 1996. Environmental Science Technology, 30:3313-3320; Nishioka, M., et al. 2001. Environmental Health Perspectives, 109(11). <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1240481/pdf/ehp0109-001185.pdf> (accessed 12-20-2013)
- 10 EPA registration requires only that the pure chemical compound of the pesticide be tested.
- 11 A survey of Private Drinking Water Wells For Lawn and Tree Care Pesticides in a Connecticut Town, Environment and Human Health, Inc.1999.
- 12 See the Northeast Organic Farming Association Connecticut Chapter's information on organic land care www.ctnofa.org/OrganicLandCare/OLC.htm & <http://osborneorganics.com/> (accessed 1-24-2014)
- 13 Managing Healthy Sports Fields: A Guide to Using Organic Materials for Low-Maintenance and Chemical-Free Playing Fields by Paul D. Sachs, January 2004
- 14 Why Public Agencies Cannot Depend on Good Laboratory Practices as a Criterion for Selecting data: The Case of Bisphenol A., Meyers, JP, vom Saal FS, et. al., Environmental Health Perspectives 117:309-315, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1289/ehp.0800173> (accessed 12-20-2013)
- 15 Developmental Toxicity of a Commercial Herbicide Mixture in Mice: I Effects on Embryo Implantation and Litter Size. Cavieres, M, Jaeger, J, and Porter, W, Environmental Health Perspectives 110, Number 11, November 2002 http://www.zoology.wisc.edu/faculty/Port/pdfs/Cavieres_et_al_02.pdf (Accessed 12-20-2013)

For more information contact
The Watershed Partnership, Inc.
 203-453-8537
WaterPartnership@SBCglobal.net



Search News & Quotes

Heavy use of herbicide Roundup linked to health dangers-U.S. study

Thu Apr 25, 2013 1:49pm EDT

49 COMMENTS Tweet 1,055 Share 33 Share this 90 Email Print

RELATED NEWS

RPT-UPDATE 1-Syngenta shrugs off cold weather to post solid sales

Monsanto beats profit expectations, raises full-year view

UPDATE 4-Monsanto beats profit expectations, raises full-year view

ANALYSIS & OPINION

Obama's worthy EPA nominee deserves support

Owners deserve right to resell book, byte or bean

RELATED TOPICS

Stocks »

Markets »

Basic Materials »

Non-Cyclical Consumer Goods »

* Study says chemical residues linked to disease

* Roundup developer Monsanto says glyphosate is safe

* Researchers say more study is needed

By Carey Gillam

April 25 (Reuters) - Heavy use of the world's most popular herbicide, Roundup, could be linked to a range of health problems and diseases, including Parkinson's, infertility and cancers, according to a new study.

The peer-reviewed report, published last week in the scientific journal *Entropy*, said evidence indicates that residues of "glyphosate," the chief ingredient in Roundup weed killer, which is sprayed over millions of acres of crops, has been found in food.

Those residues enhance the damaging effects of other food-borne chemical residues and toxins in the environment to disrupt normal body functions and induce disease, according to the report, authored by Stephanie Seneff, a research scientist at the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Anthony Samsel, a retired science consultant from Arthur D. Little, Inc. Samsel is a former private environmental government contractor as well as a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

"Negative impact on the body is insidious and manifests slowly over time as inflammation damages cellular systems throughout the body," the study says.

We "have hit upon something very important that needs to be taken seriously and further investigated," Seneff said.

Environmentalists, consumer groups and plant scientists from several countries have warned that heavy use of glyphosate is causing problems for plants, people and animals.

- 1 Malaysia says no evidence missing plane flew hours after losing contact | VIDEO
- 2 Rescuers seek survivors of NY building collapse, seven dead
- 3 White House tried to mediate dispute between Senate, CIA panel source
- 4 Missing jet may have strayed to west, Malaysia military says | VIDEO
- 5 UPDATE 1-U.S. investigators suspect missing Malaysian plane flew for hours -WSJ

Roundup® Official Site

roundup.com

Get The Facts & Info You Need To Kill & Prevent Weeds This Spring.

Follow Reuters

Facebook Twitter RSS YouTube

RECOMMENDED



Staples to shut stores, Costco disappoints



Russia says ousted Viktor Yanukovich asked



Missing plane Families wait for news

The EPA is conducting a standard registration review of glyphosate and has set a deadline of 2015 for determining if glyphosate use should be limited. The study is among many comments submitted to the agency.

Monsanto is the developer of both Roundup herbicide and a suite of crops that are genetically altered to withstand being sprayed with the Roundup weed killer.

These biotech crops, including corn, soybeans, canola and sugarbeets, are planted on millions of acres in the United States annually. Farmers like them because they can spray Roundup weed killer directly on the crops to kill weeds in the fields without harming the crops.

Roundup is also popularly used on lawns, gardens and golf courses.

Monsanto and other leading industry experts have said for years that glyphosate is proven safe, and has a less damaging impact on the environment than other commonly used chemicals.

Jerry Steiner, Monsanto's executive vice president of sustainability, reiterated that in a recent interview when questioned about the study.

"We are very confident in the long track record that glyphosate has. It has been very, very extensively studied," he said.

Of the more than two dozen top herbicides on the market, glyphosate is the most popular. In 2007, as much as 185 million pounds of glyphosate was used by U.S. farmers, double the amount used six years ago, according to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) data.

FILED UNDER [STOCKS](#) [MARKETS](#) [BASIC MATERIALS](#) [NON-CYCLICAL CONSUMER GOODS](#)

Recommended by 18,628 people recommend this Be the first of your friends

Tweet this Link this Share this Digg this Email Print Reprints

More From Reuters

- Michigan woman dead for six years found only after money runs out | 7 Mar
- Drunken groom fights with bride on jet, forces emergency landing | 10 Mar
- Malaysia investigators probe possible airport security lapse | 8 Mar
- Exclusive: Chinese raw materials also found on U.S. B-1 bomber, F-16 jets | 10 Mar

Sponsored Financial Content

- How Trading Forex Can Help You Hedge Your Equity Position
- Why Stock Index Futures Will Rally into 2014
- RJO Futures can help you learn more about technical analysis
- Struggling to Stay Profitable? Copy the top Currensee Trade Leaders.
- Award winning trading platform from CitiFX Pro - Free Trial



Pap Charles Pinger Calls Building Explosion (The Root - Sponsored)



Vanessa Williams DNA Test Showed Genes From (Ancestry.com - Sponsored)

- Take advantage of the forex market with the Currensee Trade Leaders (Currensee)
- How Trading Forex Can Help You Hedge Your Equity Position (FXCM)
- FREE Guide - Intro to Technical Analysis! (RJO Futures)
- Will the Stock Index Futures rally into 2014? (ADM Investor Services)
- Expert views on the global markets from RMC Wealth Management (MarketViews)

Content from sponsors

KEY RATES

MORTGAGE

- 30-Year Fixed
- 15-Year Fixed
- 10-Year Fixed
- 5/1-Year ARM
- 30-Year Fixed Refi
- 15-Year Fixed Refi
- 5/1 ARM Refi
- 30-Year Fixed Jumbo

SEE MORE KEY RATES

AMERICA'S FINANCIAL SUMMIT 2014

REGISTER NOW

INNOVATE + ADVOCATE

A genetically engineered grass expected to hit U.S. markets without government review could speed the evolution of hard-to-control weeds, and perhaps require a return to toxic herbicides scrapped decades ago. On July 1 — a Friday afternoon, a time usually ...

Science

News for Your Neurons

Environment

Biology

Share on Facebook

928 shares

Tweet 203

g+1 25

Share 35

Genetically Modified Grass Could Make Superweed Problem Worse

By Brandon Keim

07.11.11

2:28 PM

Follow @9brandon



A genetically engineered grass expected to hit U.S. markets without government review could speed the evolution of hard-to-control weeds, and perhaps require a return to toxic herbicides scrapped decades ago.

On July 1 — a Friday afternoon, a time usually reserved for potentially controversial news — the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that Scotts Miracle-Gro's herbicide-resistant Kentucky bluegrass would be exempt from tests typically required of transgenic crops.

Scotts Miracle-Gro is the largest U.S. retailer of grass seed, and the modified grass could be widely used in residential lawns. It's resistant to glyphosate, a front-line herbicide known commercially as Roundup.

The grass will survive extra doses of Roundup, allowing more than usual to be applied. That's the problem, said agricultural biotechnology expert Douglas Gurian-Sherman of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

"The more a chemical is used consistently, the more likely that somebody's weeds will become resistant. That's standard, agreed-upon science," said Gurian-Sherman. "The way that Roundup is used because of transgenic crops exacerbates that problem."

Herbicide resistance evolves in much the same way as antibiotic resistance: When a weed- or bug-killing compound is applied, any weeds or bugs lucky enough to be genetically resistant will have the best chance to survive and reproduce.

Many crop plants are already engineered to be Roundup-resistant, and heavy use of the herbicide appears to have fueled the evolution of dozens of Roundup-resistant weed strains. They're a major threat to agriculture in parts of the United States, virtually uncontrollable except by hand-pulling or a return to toxic, decades-old herbicides that the relatively benign Roundup had replaced.



Pigweed growing in a soybean field. Since the introduction of Roundup-ready soy, Roundup-resistant pigweed has become a major problem. (*Image: pawpaw67/Flickr*)

"The industry hasn't developed a new herbicide in a long time. When resistance develops to something like glyphosate, it's not like we can move to some new chemical," said Gurian-Sherman. Compared to pigweed that can grow three inches each day in soybean fields, Roundup-resistant lawn weeds would be a nuisance rather than an economic threat. But just as superweeds have pushed farmers to bring back toxic herbicides, so might they push homeowners and landscapers.

"We're burning out Roundup and going back into the past," said Gurian-Sherman. "The same kind of thing could happen in residential use."

Another potential problem is the spread of Roundup resistance into related strains of bluegrass, said plant geneticist Norman Ellstrand of the University of California, Riverside.

"I don't know what other bluegrass species it's cross-compatible with, but I can say with 98 percent certainty that it's cross-compatible with some," said Ellstrand. "If this plant grows and flowers at the same time as other bluegrass, they'll flourish. You'll have a new incidence of herbicide resistance getting into the wild."

Whereas Kentucky bluegrass is popular for lawns, it's not always welcome. Other members of its 500 species-strong genus are considered weeds.

A lesson can be taken from the unintentional escape of genes from rice bred for resistance to the Clearfield herbicide, said Ellstrand. "Now you have a very bad, weedy rice in Costa Rica that's resistant to the herbicide," he said. "It doesn't happen easily with rice. If it happens with rice, it will happen with bluegrasses."

Another species of Roundup-resistant grass developed by Scotts Miracle-Gro for golf courses was nixed by the USDA because of fear that resistance would spread to related pest species, noted Ellstrand. "The U.S. Forest Service waded in and said, 'We don't want it,'" he said.

Had the the Department of Agriculture decided to treat Roundup-ready bluegrass as a genetically modified plant, extra assurance of its environmental safety would have been demanded. But they decided not to because it fit through a loophole.

Genetically engineered plants are technically designated for regulation according to methods used to insert and activate new genes. Earlier methods used bacteria, which triggered pest-related clauses of the USDA's Plant Protection Act. But the Roundup-ready bluegrass was made with a so-called gene gun. No bacteria were involved, and the law's fine print was satisfied.

"By all definitions of genetic engineering, that's genetic engineering. But it totally escapes the U.S. regulatory framework," Ellstrand said.

According to Scotts Miracle-Gro spokesman Lance Latham, the USDA's decision "allows us to move forward with field tests. It's a first step. It's our hope that testing will continue our advancement to develop grass seed that is even more sustainable."

Image: Anne Homyak/Flickr

See Also:

Crop Tops: Strange Agricultural Landscapes Seen From Space

WikiLeaks Reveals International Intrigue Over Science

Frankenfood Gets Supersized

Philip Morris Tries to Engineer the Cancer Out of Tobacco

Feds' Transgenic-Salmon Review Ignores Big Picture

Will Your Lawn Be Genetically Engineered?

Scotts-Miracle Gro's Roundup-Ready Kentucky bluegrass is coming soon to a store near you

By Chris Ryan

In July of 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) cleared the way for widespread planting of a new type of genetically engineered (GE) organism: a variety of Kentucky bluegrass which has been engineered by the Scotts Miracle-Gro company to be resistant to Monsanto Company's Roundup herbicide (glyphosate). The approval has sparked concern among health and environmental advocates for a number of reasons. First, the product will be unique among GE crops in that it will be directly marketed to the general public to plant themselves, as opposed to specific consumer subsets such as farmers. Because of the expected wide consumer appeal due to a perception of easier lawn maintenance, the GE bluegrass will most likely result in a dramatic increase in acreage planted in GE crops, as well as glyphosate applications, throughout the country—bringing with it the health and environmental consequences of such an increase. Additionally, because of the way in which the product was marketed, the GE bluegrass will likely avoid USDA biotechnology regulations that apply to most GE crops and will likely skirt regulatory oversight because it is engineered in a way that differs from most GE crops.

Skirting Regulations

The GE bluegrass was able to avoid any regulatory oversight because it is engineered in a way that differs from most GE crops. Accordingly, USDA will not consider the GE bluegrass a biotechnology product. In the decision announcement, the U.S. Department of Health and Inspection Service (APHIS), the agency that does not have the authority to regulate introduction or transportation of the GE grass seed under the provisions of the *Plant Protection Act* (PPA), the statute that governs the agency's biotechnology regulations. The grass has been engineered to be resistant to the herbicide glyphosate, commonly sold as Monsanto's Roundup. Kentucky bluegrass is a popular choice for yards and fields, as well as pastures and prairies, and the GE seed is expected to be made available for consumers to plant in their home lawns, potentially making it one of the most widely planted GE crops in the country.

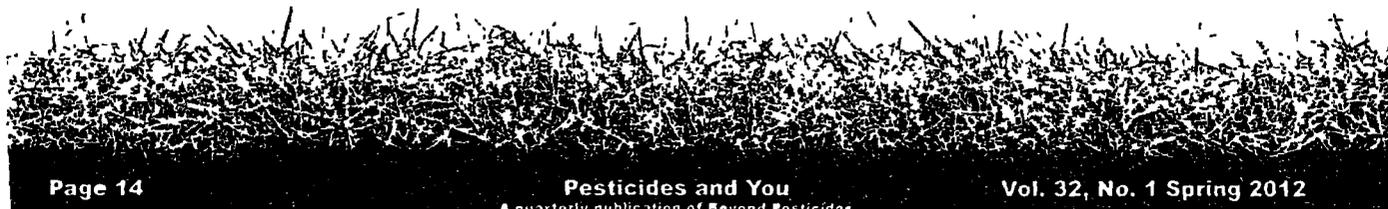
[Kentucky bluegrass] is engineered in a way that differs from most GE crops. USDA issued a decision stating that it does not consider the GE turf grass to be subject to federal regulations.

USDA's authority to regulate GE products stems from provisions of the PPA that are designed to ensure that GE crops do not present the potential for new "plant pests."¹ As the *New York Times* explains in discussing the announcement, "Since companies have created most genetically modified crops, like herbicide-resistant corn and soybean, using either genes or tools derived from microbes, USDA has long extended its powers to nearly every biotech plant developed in the country."² However, the Scotts GE bluegrass was developed using genetic material from other plants, such as corn and rice, but no microbes. Accordingly, APHIS stated in its decision that, "The GE bluegrass variety is not within the Agency's regulatory authority because it does not contain plant pest sequences and no plant pest was used to create the GE Kentucky bluegrass."³

This finding is distinct from previous findings regarding a "determination of nonregulated status," as APHIS terms it, for other GE crops, such as GE alfalfa. In those cases, APHIS had used its statutory authority to evaluate any potential plant pest risk posed by the new crop and found that the risk was minimal, meaning that the crop did not need to be regulated (though the agency is currently being challenged in court over the integrity of its evaluation process). For the GE bluegrass, no review was conducted, since APHIS does not believe it has the authority, meaning the product is automatically free to be marketed and made commercially available without governmental review.

As part of its requirements under the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA), APHIS also prepares a formal environmental assessment (EA), or a more rigorous environmental impact statement (EIS), for every GE product that it reviews.⁴ NEPA mandates that all federal agencies conduct environmental evaluations for any action that is undertaken that may impact the environment.⁵ However, there was no formal review prepared by APHIS of potential impacts that release of the GE bluegrass would have on the environment, because the agency apparently did not believe that it was undertaking an action. It was instead stating that it does not believe it has the authority to act.

The novel method employed in engineering the GE bluegrass was



specifically designed for the purposes of avoiding the APHIS regulatory process through which all other GE products go. In its letter to APHIS concerning the GE grass, the Scotts company specifically states that, "Because Kentucky bluegrass itself is not a plant pest, no plant pest components will be involved in the transformation, and the native plant genomes that will be used are fully classified.. Scotts therefore maintains that under current regulations, transgenic Kentucky bluegrass...does not satisfy any of the regulatory criteria that would subject it to [APHIS] oversight."⁶ In detailing the specific engineering methods it used, Scotts then asked the agency to concur that the bluegrass would not be subject to review or regulation. In a short letter of response, APHIS did just that, saying, "Because no plant pests, unclassified organisms, or organisms whose classification is unknown were used to genetically engineer this variety of GE Kentucky bluegrass, APHIS has no reason to believe it is a plant pest and therefore does not consider the Kentucky bluegrass... to be regulated under 7 CFR part 340 and is not subject to the plant pest provisions of the PPA."⁷

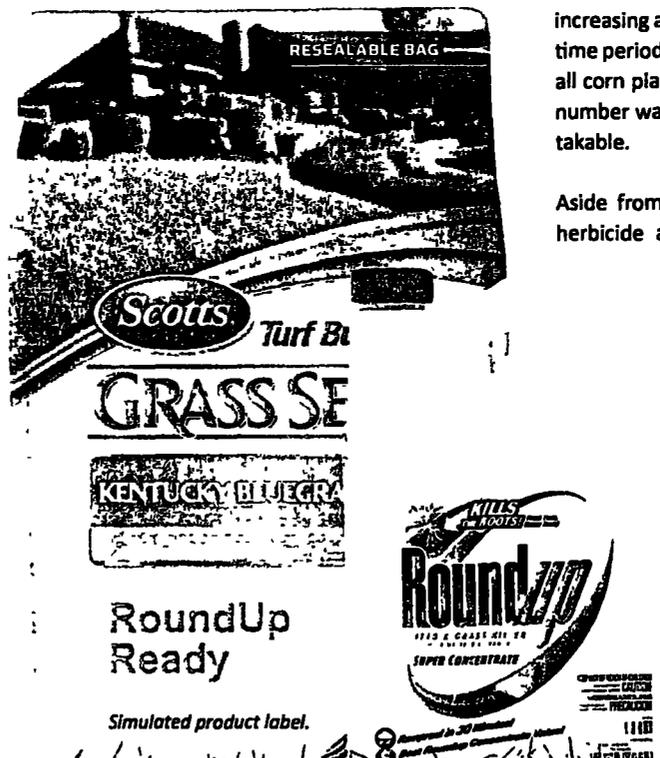
Responding to questions about whether this decision sets a precedent for future unregulated approval of GE crops, APHIS indicates that the decision does not represent a shift in policy and that it will make decisions on a case-by-case basis. However, the agency added that, "If a GE organism is not a plant pest, is not made using plant pests, and APHIS has no reason to believe that it is a plant pest, then the GE organism would not fall under APHIS regulatory authority."⁸ This makes clear a significant loophole in the regulation of biotechnology in the U.S. If companies can find ways to engineer the GE products they develop without the use of microbes or other plant pests, then those products will not be subject to any sort of, even limited, public health or environmental oversight prior to being put on the market for the public to obtain

Consequences

There is little doubt that, if homeowners around the country start sowing

GE bluegrass seed on their properties in large numbers, this will result in a dramatic increase in the amount of Roundup that is sprayed onto the American landscape. Despite claims from biotechnology companies that herbicide resistant crops will reduce overall pesticide applications, studies have consistently shown that applications actually increase, as applicators are more likely to simply douse their crops with the chemicals, since they know it will not harm them and they want to eradicate as many weeds as possible. For example, a 2009 report on the effect of GE crops on pesticide use throughout the country found that, over the first 13 years of the commercial availability of GE crops in the U.S., pesticide use has increased by 383 million pounds.⁹ Additionally, according to an analysis of the *2010 Agricultural Chemical Use Report* released by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS),¹⁰ glyphosate use has dramatically increased over the last several years, while the use of other toxic chemicals such as atrazine has not declined. The 2010 report shows that, in the states surveyed, 57 million pounds of glyphosate were applied that year on corn fields. Ten years prior, in 2000, this number was only 4.4 million pounds, and in 2005, it was still less than half of 2010 numbers at 23 million pounds. Intense corn growing regions have experienced an even greater increase in glyphosate applications. Glyphosate use on corn in the state of Nebraska increased by more than five times in just seven years, going from 1.25 million pounds applied in 2003 to more than seven million pounds in 2010. When pesticide use is compared to the increasing adoption of GE crops over the same time period—in 2000, GE corn made up 25% of all corn planted in the U.S. and, by 2010, this number was 86%¹¹—the correlation is unmistakable.

Aside from the likely increase in residential herbicide applications as a result of home plantings, allowance of the GE bluegrass presents the potential for increased difficulties for organic farmers and ranchers. Because of the popularity of Kentucky bluegrass for use in yards, pastures, and prairies, its reach is expected to be quite widespread. This will make conversion of new land to organic food production more difficult as, according to APHIS's fact sheet on the decision, "Once established,



GE Kentucky bluegrass may prevent transition to organic status unless eradicated from the acreage to be transitioned.¹²

Additional concerns about large scale planting of the GE bluegrass stem partly from the fact that a separate variety of GE grass developed by Scotts several years ago, which USDA is still considering, escaped from a test plot in Oregon in 2007. The company was fined \$500,000 as a result, but has continued to work on the project and may attempt to commercialize the product in the near future.¹³ In a letter accompanying the GE bluegrass decision, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack urged the Scotts Company to "work closely with a broad range of stakeholders" to "develop appropriate and effective stewardship measures to minimize com-

mingling and gene flow between GE and non-GE Kentucky bluegrass," reflecting the Secretary's continuing belief and insistence on coexistence between GE, non-GE, and organic farmers.¹⁴ However, it is unclear what kind of efforts could be taken by Scotts to make non-GE and organic land managers more comfortable, and some advocates doubt that Scotts will, in fact, make any serious effort to cooperate with this kind of voluntary initiative.

Glyphosate is a general herbicide used for eradication of broadleaf weeds. It has been linked to a number of serious human health effects, including increased cancer risk, neurotoxicity, and birth defects, as well as eye, skin, and respiratory irritation. One of the inert ingredients in product formulations of Roundup, polyoxyethyleneamine (POEA), has been shown to be toxic to human embryonic cells. The chemical is also of particular concern due to its toxicity to aquatic species, as well as instances of serious human health effects from acute exposure.

As health and environmental advocates have long been aware, herbicide applications to control weeds on residential lawns and playing fields are dangerous and unnecessary. A healthy lawn will be free of pests and create a safe area for outdoor recreation.

Beyond Pesticides has numerous resources on how to create a safe, healthy, and chemical-free lawn. Contact us with any questions or visit www.beyondpesticides.org/lawn for more information.

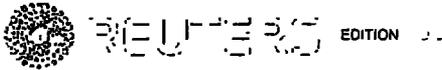


Endnotes

- 1 Relevant regulations can be found at 7 C.F.R. part 340.
- 2 Voosen, Paul. "In Major Shift, USDA Clears Way for Modified Bluegrass." New York Times July 6, 2011. www.nytimes.com/gwire/2011/07/06/06greenwire-in-major-shift-usda-clears-way-for-modified-bl-51693.html.
- 3 USDA APHIS. Questions & Answers: Kentucky Bluegrass July 2011. www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/scotts_kbg_q&a.pdf.
- 4 USDA APHIS. "Biotechnology Environmental Documents for Permits and Petitions." www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/biotech/brs_environmental_assessments.shtml.
- 5 42 U.S.C. §4332(2)(C).
- 6 Scotts Miracle-Gro Letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack Requesting Confirmation of Nonregulated Status for Glyphosate Tolerant Kentucky Bluegrass. September 13, 2010. www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/scotts_kbg.pdf.
- 7 USDA Response Letter to Scotts Miracle-Gro on GE Kentucky Bluegrass. July 1, 2011. www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/scotts_kbg_resp.pdf.
- 8 USDA APHIS. Questions & Answers: Kentucky Bluegrass. July 2011 www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/scotts_kbg_q&a.pdf.
- 9 Benbrook, Charles Impacts of Genetically Engineered Crops on Pesticide Use: The First Thirteen Years The Organic Center, November 2009. www.organic-center.org/science/latest.php?action=view&report_id=159.
- 10 Report data available here: www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Chemical_Use/
- 11 USDA Economic Research Service. Adoption of Genetically Engineered Crops in the U.S.: Corn Varieties. www.ers.usda.gov/Data/BiotechCrops/ExtentofAdoptionTable1.htm.
- 12 USDA APHIS. Questions & Answers. Kentucky Bluegrass July 2011 www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/scotts_kbg_q&a.pdf
- 13 "USDA Concludes Genetically Engineered Creeping Bentgrass Investigation." November, 26, 2007. www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/11/0350.xml.
- 14 Additional Response to Scotts Miracle-Gro Letter from Secretary Vilsack. July, 1, 2011. www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs/scotts_kbg_sec_resp.pdf.

Pesticides and You

A quarterly publication of Beyond Pesticides



Search News & Quotes

HOME BUSINESS MARKETS GOLD POLITICS TECH TRAVEL ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT LIFE PICTURES VIDEO

Pesticide use ramping up as GMO crop technology backfires: study

BY CAREY GILLAM
Mon Oct 1, 2012 9 18pm EDT

5 COMMENTS Tweet 591 Share 19 Share this 8+ 31 Email Print

RELATED NEWS

Insight As cotton surged, China trader amassed \$510 million bet

Syngenta lifts sales target for key crops

UPDATE 2-Rains spur planting as Brazil gears up for record soy crop

Syngenta says drought-hardy corn did well in U S

UPDATE 2-Japan lifts wheat import estimate, to nearly triple on yr

RELATED TOPICS

Science »

(Reuters) - U.S. farmers are using more hazardous pesticides to fight weeds and insects due largely to heavy adoption of genetically modified crop technologies that are sparking a rise of "superweeds" and hard-to-kill insects, according to a newly released study.

Genetically engineered crops have led to an increase in overall pesticide use, by 404 million pounds from the time they were introduced in 1996 through 2011, according to the report by Charles Benbrook, a research professor at the Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources at Washington State University.

Of that total, herbicide use increased over the 16-year period by 527 million pounds while insecticide use decreased by 123 million pounds.

Benbrook's paper -- published in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Sciences Europe over the weekend and announced on Monday -- undermines the value of both herbicide-tolerant crops and insect-protected crops, which were aimed at making it easier for farmers to kill weeds in their fields and protect crops from harmful pests, said Benbrook.

Herbicide-tolerant crops were the first genetically modified crops introduced to world, rolled out by Monsanto Co. in 1996, first in "Roundup Ready" soybeans and then in corn, cotton and other crops. Roundup Ready crops are engineered through transgenic modification to tolerate dousings of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide.

The crops were a hit with farmers who found they could easily kill weed populations without damaging their crops. But in recent years, more than two dozen weed species have become resistant to Roundup's chief ingredient glyphosate, causing farmers to use increasing amounts both of glyphosate and other weedkilling chemicals to try to control the so-called "superweeds."

Malaysia jet sent 'pings' after going missing, sources say | DEO

Russia holds war games near Ukraine, Merkel warns of catastrophe | DEO

New York City gas explosion subject of federal probe | DEO

White House tried to mediate dispute between Senate, CIA panel source

Missing jet may have strayed to west, Malaysia military says | DEO



FREE SHIPPING
ALL ORDERS
OVER \$49



BED BATH & BEYOND

"Resistant weeds have become a major problem for many farmers reliant on GE crops, and are now driving up the volume of herbicide needed each year by about 25 percent," Benbrook said.

Monsanto officials had no immediate comment.

"We're looking at this. Our experts haven't been able to access the supporting data as yet," said Monsanto spokesman Thomas Helscher.

Benbrook said the annual increase in the herbicides required to deal with tougher-to-control weeds on cropland planted to genetically modified crops has grown from 1.5 million pounds in 1999 to about 90 million pounds in 2011.

Similarly, the introduction of "Bt" corn and cotton crops engineered to be toxic to certain insects is triggering the rise of insects resistant to the crop toxin, according to Benbrook.

Insecticide use did drop substantially - 28 percent from 1996 to 2011 - but is now on the rise, he said.

"The relatively recent emergence and spread of insect populations resistant to the Bt toxins expressed in Bt corn and cotton has started to increase insecticide use, and will continue to do so," he said.

Herbicide-tolerant and Bt-transgenic crops now dominate U.S. agriculture, accounting for about one in every two acres of harvested cropland, and around 95 percent of soybean and cotton acres, and over 85 percent of corn acres.

"Things are getting worse, fast," said Benbrook in an interview. "In order to deal with rapidly spreading resistant weeds, farmers are being forced to expand use of older, higher-risk herbicides. To stop corn and cotton insects from developing resistance to Bt, farmers planting Bt crops are being asked to spray the insecticides that Bt corn and cotton were designed to displace."

(Reporting By Carey Gillam; Editing by Ken Wills)

FILED UNDER **SCIENCE**

5,330 people recommend this Be the first of your friends

Tweet this Link this Share this Digg this Email Print Reprints

Follow Reuters

Facebook Twitter RSS YouTube

RECOMMENDED

-  Putin softens Crimea stance (1 14)
-  Turning "blind eye when nations are trampled
-  Indian plane evacuated after wheel catches
-  10 Animals That Shouldn't Sleep Without a (Comments on: 10 Animals with Sleep Apnea - Sponsored)
-  Vanessa Williams DNA Test Showed Genes From. (Ancestry.com - Sponsored)

FINANCIAL CONTENT TIPS AND GUIDES

- It's never too early or too late to start saving for retirement (Wells Fargo)
- Our toolkit helps you understand the essentials of estate planning (Wells Fargo Advisors)
- Learn currency trading with a free Currency Trading for Dummies guide (Forex.com)
- National Financial can help you reinvent your approach to drive growth (Fidelity)
- Stay in control of your account while copying our top Trade Leaders (Currensee)

Content from sponsors

Roberta Silbert, MPH
155 White Birch Drive, Guilford CT 06437
203 453- 5966

March 14, 2014

Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee,

Re: HB 5330 An Act Concerning The Application Of Pesticides At Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields And Municipal Greens.

I am submitting testimony in support of HB 5330 because I consider the health of our children and the health of our environment to be critical to the great State of Connecticut.

When tragedy strikes we pay attention. We are glued to our electronic devices in disbelief. Then there are the less public tragedies like a mother taking her young child with leukemia to the hospital for chemotherapy, the high school athlete about to start college just diagnosed with lymphoma, a baby born with birth defects, or the parents helping their child adjust to life with severe asthma. I have worked in the health care field and I know of the suffering that illness and disease can cause.

While we all try to keep our children safe they are being involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals like pesticides that can harm them. PESTICIDES KILL LIVING THINGS LIKE PLANTS AND INSECTS. OUR CHILDREN ARE ALSO LIVING THINGS. If children fell ill or fell dead onto the grass of a pesticide maintained athletic field after a game of soccer or your dog died right after walking on a pesticide sprayed town green people would be paying a lot of attention AND there would be a lot of press coverage. But illness from these toxins is a less public and less publicized tragedy. And the time from exposure to diagnosis of illness can be as long 20 years.

This much is clear – CHILDREN AND PESTICIDES DON'T MIX. And as with many things there is the good, the bad and the ugly.

First the good news. Connecticut legislators by an overwhelming majority passed landmark legislation to protect children by a ban on lawn pesticides in public and private schools from day care to through grade 8. Now hundreds of thousands of children are protected from involuntary exposure on school grounds.

Now the bad news. Most parents do not even know that this law exists because they are not paying attention to the causes of the everyday tragedies that are affecting others people's children. The bad news is that the pro-pesticide interests have blocked the ban being extended to other places where children play. We need the ban extended to ALL other places where our children play. It makes no sense to protect children's health on school grounds up to 8th grade and expose them in parks, playgrounds, on municipal fields, high school fields, and on town greens. I can tell you this: when illness and disease strike it doesn't care what grade you are in, or your age, or your economic status.

The ugly news is that the billion dollar pesticide industry wants to protect their market share on the backs of our children and our environment. Pro-pesticide

interests claim that non-toxic turf care does not work and are trying to reverse the ban and permit the use of all their toxic pesticides. They do this under the guise of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that sounds nice but really means business as usual. IPM is a subterfuge to allow the full use of toxic lawn pesticides. IPM is flawed and puts our children at risk. The ban is stricter and protects children from toxic pesticide exposure. A ban also would protect the applicators who themselves are at risk for exposure and harm. These interests are also trying to block any further expansion of the bill with a variety of tactics. The influence of the pesticide industry and their lobbyists has affected the attitudes of a long line of people - from professional organizations, to facility managers, to athletic directors, to state organizations like CCM, to municipal officials and to the applicators themselves.

No toxic pesticide should be used where children play. There are gaps in testing, pesticides are not really tested for long term toxicity considering the time from exposure to diagnosis of disease can be up to 20 years. Pesticides are not tested in combination and in the formulations that they are actually used. These formulations can be more toxic than the active ingredient alone. On top of this, the testing is done by the chemical companies who manufacture the pesticides - the fox is guarding the chicken coop.

Non-toxic care of fields works well when done properly. Success is due to know how. Lots of workshops and classes have been offered, but more importantly success is an attitude to want to protect the health of the kids in the community they serve. In a town that has gone beyond the current law and has all their fields and parks under non-toxic care, the Director of Parks has said, "when I hear that another child in my town gets cancer I want to know it is not because of something I sprayed on my fields." If elected municipal officials really care about the health of children in their town and want playable fields, they should find someone who actually does non-toxic care successfully and not use those who complain it can't be done.

Pro-pesticide interests will complain to you about their weeds and their deteriorating turf. They talk about grass and I hear children crying. THIS IS NOT ABOUT GRASS. IT IS ABOUT CHILDREN WITH CANCER, CHILDREN WITH LYMPHOMA, CHILDREN WITH LEUKEMIA, CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA, CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS, CHILDREN WITH CHEMICAL SENSITIVITIES AND ALLERGIES. CHILDREN BORN WITH BIRTH DEFECTS. IT IS ABOUT OUR PETS DYING FROM EXPOSURE TO GRASS TREATED WITH PESTICIDES. IT IS ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT, THE AIR WE BREATHE, THE WATER WE DRINK, AND THE FOOD WE EAT. IT IS ABOUT ALL OF US AND OUR LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Pro-pesticide interests will tell you about costs (which actually will be less once they restore the health of the soil). When they mention costs I think of the personal costs of illness, the societal costs, the health care costs and the moral costs. What kind of society do we live in where money for corporations that manufacture toxic chemicals is valued over the health of our children? Don't we have an obligation, a moral obligation, to our children and future generations to make sure we did all we could to ensure a toxic free legacy? Roberta Silbert

Search

English (US) ↕

Come on in!

Join Pinterest today. .it only takes like a second or so

More like this brain tumor, cancer awareness and childhood

Join Pinterest

Log In

Childhood Cancer Awareness: Your Photos

We are not accepting submissions to the board at this time Thank you to all who shared their stories *(NewsHour does not certify the fund allocations of charities included with photo submissions Visit Charity Navigator [http //bit ly/zKbPWY](http://bit.ly/zKbPWY) for information on evaluating charities)

NewsHour

Follow Board

138 Pins

2,885 Followers



Quinten was diagnosed with Stage IV Neuroblastoma in Dec 2010 at 15 months old. After six rounds of high dose chemotherapy, a stem cell transplant and 12 rounds of radiation, he is in remission, Amanda Dopson writes

10 4

Uploaded by NewsHour



Aleksei Minank was diagnosed with PNET Ewing's Sarcoma of the spine in Jan 2011 He was declared cancer-free in November, his mother All Minank writes "He has been an inspiration to so many people we could not be more proud of him!"

5 4

Pinned from roomtobreathe dot org wordpress com



Teagan was diagnosed with Juvenile Myelomonocytic Leukemia (JMML) at tender age of 3 5 in Nov of '06 The only treatment resulting in a cure for JMML is a Bone Marrow Transplant, with about a 50% survival rate She relapsed 6mo after her transplant She passed away on September 18th, 2008 She loved anything pink, playing dress-up, books, spinnked donuts, her blankie and stiple (her plush lotty) Forever missed, forever chershed, forever loved www.canngbrdge

6

Pinned from canngbrdge org



Christian on the day of his very last chemo treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center with his family in December 2009 Submitted by his mother Diana Fagala

3 2 1

Uploaded by NewsHour

Angela Boleyn Hey! I know that famly! Much love!



Matthew is currently in treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia His mother, Wendy Burr, writes "His treatment will last a total of 3 years and 3 months, which will be roughly



Ryan Tamayoshi at 2 1/2 years old after almost 8 months of aggressive treatment for AML A 50/50 prognosis He is now 13 years old

1 6



Childhood Cancer Awareness: Your Photos on Pinterest

half of his life by the time he's done *Search

5 3

Come on in!

Join Pinterest today it only takes like a second

More like this brain tumor, cancer awareness and childhood



Grace was diagnosed with brain cancer at 5. In September, she will be 5 years beyond diagnosis. She is doing well, but will have to live and struggle with side effects the rest of her life, mom Rebekah Ham writes us. Ham has documented Grace and her family's journey here www.caringbridge.org

2 2

Pinned from caringbridge.org



Ellen Flannery, the founder of CancerFree KIDS Pediatric Cancer Research Alliance, submitted these photos of (top) Leah, Kaman, (bottom) Jenna and Thomas

4 2

Uploaded by NewsHour



Pinned from picasaweb.google.com



Sam was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, a highly malignant brain tumor, when he was 3. "He is now 14 and dealing with the "gifts" of his treatment--yes, one of them being life!" mom Sandy Barrow writes

5 2

Uploaded by NewsHour



Nicholas was diagnosed with stage 4 Neuroblastoma at 23 months on April 22, 2009. "He is now 4 1/2, and kicking cancer's butt," mom Heather Noel writes

9 3

Uploaded by NewsHour



Blake Bufta, 10, a rhabdomyosarcoma survivor. Blake was diagnosed at 8 yrs. old, the second of two cousins to be diagnosed with pediatric cancer, Randy Pickus writes.

4

Uploaded by NewsHour



Sean Hanson was diagnosed with



Emma Golden is "my hero," her mom writes us.

2 2 1

Uploaded by NewsHour

Denise Bennett What a beautiful smile!!



Submitted by Kelly McMonagle

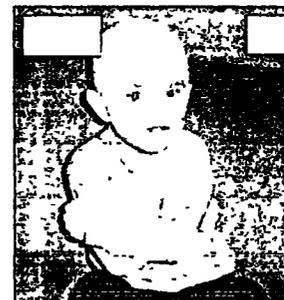
2

Uploaded by NewsHour

Ethan Lent was diagnosed at 5 years old. He is seen here "riding" his IV pole in the hospital hallway. His mother Johanna Lent sent us this photo, and writes "Ethan beat the odds, and is now a healthy 10 year old boy!"

Join Pinterest Log in

Pinned from pbs.org



Makade Gage Thom was diagnosed with Hepatoblastoma on Nov 16, 2005 when he was 2. He is currently in remission, Michelle Knutson writes.

2 3

Pinned from caringbridge.org



Elena, was diagnosed with ALL at age 2. She is now 4 and in Maintenance and will finish up her 2.5 years of treatment in July, mom Brana Hoffman writes. In this photo, Elena is receiving an infusion of IV chemo at Primary Children Medical Center

5 2 1

Uploaded by NewsHour

Chelsie Watson Young We love Elenat!



Anne Spurgeon submitted this photo of a local support network. "Local organizations like the

Samuel Grady, 3, was diagnosed last July with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. His mother, Pauline Come on in photo Join Pinterest today it only takes a second. 0/30

More like this "Brain tumor, cancer awareness and childhood"

- Louise Holland God Bless you and the people who love you.
- Melissa Shipley-Paul Prayers for a cure for the monster called cancer
- Inanna Caliendo



Brooke Mulford was diagnosed in January 2009, when she was 4 years old, with stage IV high-risk neuroblastoma. Brooke currently shows "No Evidence of Disease" extensive therapy and treatment. Her mother, Amy Mulford, sent us this photo and writes, "there is not a day that goes by that I don't worry about relapse."

27 11 2

Pinned from pbs.org

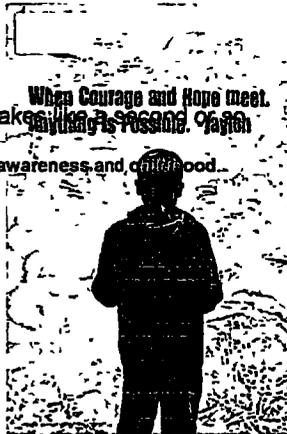
- AidaOfNubia So beautiful!
- Tiffany Cox I would have done this for my children!



Levi, at age 5, battling high risk medulloblastoma. He is now almost 12 and battling long term effects of the treatments that saved his life, his mom writes "He wakes up everyday with a smile on his face"

7

Uploaded by



When Courage and Hope meet. Nothing is possible. 0/30

Jaylon Fong, 11, is a leukemia patient at the City of Hope, a cancer center outside of Los Angeles. Francis Fong sent us this picture and tells us that he has been in



Bobby Menges was diagnosed with stage IV neuroblastoma when he was 5 years old. He is now 14 and healthy. This photo, sent by his mother, Elizabeth Menges, was taken with his late grandfather in 2004 after a stem cell transplant.

7 3

Pinned from pbs.org



"Sean attacks cancer like he attacks his opponents on the LAX field," mom Mary Beth Dever writes "Sean lost his left leg to cancer but not his fight"

2 2

Uploaded by



Sophia Langford was 4 years old when she passed away due to anaplastic medulloblastoma. Her mother, Shirley Langford, writes "The hole in your heart never heals after losing your child and the nightmares from the fight always haunt you"

5

Uploaded by



Lauren, 14, relapsed in November, mom Chem Chiodo writes "my sunshine"

3 1

Pinned by pinner



Abigail was diagnosed with Retinoblastoma when she was 4 and lost her left eye due to the battle, mom Heather Adler writes "This is when she took her prosthetic out for the first time and cleaned it -"

Madison, Wisconsin's "Badger Childhood Cancer Research" supports families of kids with cancer by linking them with other families to provide emotional support and emergency financial assistance

Join Pinterest Log in

Pinned from badgerchildhoodcancer.org



Porter Lilley, 8, was diagnosed with leukemia in October. His mother, Jen Lilley, writes "Cancer has changed every bit of life as we know it. All he wants is to play baseball this spring"

5 4 1

Pinned from pbs.org

- Ken Thompson inspiring led



Alex John was 14 years old, and loved life, friends, family, music, sports and animals, dad Bob Pimewski writes "He was diagnosed with cancer on Father's Day, 2007, and passed away Jan 5, 2008"

4

Uploaded by NewsHour



Sarah Neary and her sister Katie during Sarah's treatment for leukemia. Her parents Laura and Steve sent us this photo, and write "A reminder that childhood cancer doesn't just happen to the patient—it devastates the entire family."

12 5

Pinned from pbs.org



Jacob was 2 years old when this photo was taken. His brain tumor had relapsed a month earlier. After aggressive treatment, including a stem cell transplant, he passed away a month later in the summer of 1999. This photo was sent to us by his father, Jeremy Shatan. He works for Hope & Heroes Children's Cancer Fund.

1

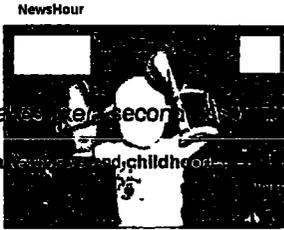
Pinned from hopeandheroes.org



Matthew on his Make-a-Wish trip to Pearl Harbor. Submitted by mom Tricia Litchfield.

1

Pinned from pbs.org



Kai Plunkett was diagnosed with precursor B leukemia before a week before he turned 3 years old. His mother Dawn sent us this photo, and writes "This photo became our 'logo' for the Hopes and Heroes walk we do for his clinic in the spring. Our tag line is TKO Leukemia with Kai's crew!"

4 1

Uploaded by NewsHour



Taylor Ann Brooks was diagnosed with desmoplastic small round cell tumor. Melissa Brooks, her mother, sent us this photo. "She should be 18 years old and a freshman in college. There were no 'astounding gains' for her," she writes. We have added a link through Taylor's photo to the Taylor Brooks Foundation.

3 1

Pinned from taylorbrooksfoundation.org



Zoe, 6. Zoe was diagnosed with t-cell ALL on Sept 7, 2010 when she was 5. Shared by Jen Beggett-Pramuk.

2 1

Pinned from pbs.org



a great accomplishment for her, Heather tells us.

5 1

Uploaded by NewsHour

Anna Rose Bakotic, 9, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia last year. Her mother, who sent this photo, writes "She is my 'little survivor', as her Dad also is a Hodgkins Lymphoma Survivor."

2 1

Pinned from pbs.org



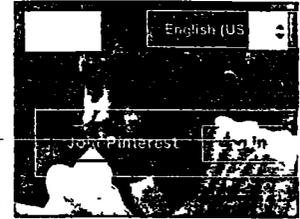
Graem Hobbs, 3, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia on Christmas Eve, 2010. Candin Hobbs sent us this photo.

2 1

Pinned from pbs.org



Becky was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma in 2007. After four lung surgeries, five leg surgeries, six traditional chemos and five experimental trials, Becky passed away on Feb 6, 2010. She was 10 years old. Submitted by Wendy Boucher.



Chns Court was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor in January 2011. He passed away in October of last year after 10 months of treatment. His mother, Caroline Court, sent us this photo and writes "He fought to the end and us my..."



Duncan Micheltree was diagnosed with Wilim's tumor, stage III at 2 1/2 years old. His father Eric Mitchellree sent us this photo. Eric writes that Duncan is now 4 1/2 years old and "doing great thanks to the doctors and COG/ CureSearch."

4 3

Pinned from pbs.org



Maci, 7, loves horses, the outdoors and the ballet. She was diagnosed with a brain stem glioma in Feb 2011. "After surgery in March, she is learning how to talk, crawl, and walk all over while undergoing chemo as the tumor is growing once again," mom Shan Wnebarger writes.

9 2 1

Pinned from pbs.org

Jessica Price Love you Maci! She will be healed!

Room 3300
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591



860-240-8600
1-800-842-1420
www.SenatorWilliams.ct.gov

State of Connecticut
SENATOR DONALD E. WILLIAMS, JR.
Twenty-ninth District
President Pro Tempore

Testimony before the Public Health Committee
Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr.

In Support of H.B. 5330, *AAC The Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens*
March 14, 2014

Good Morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. I am here today to support H.B. 5330, An Act Concerning The Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens, and to bring to your attention a related issue of significant concern to the public health and our state's parks, playgrounds and other green spaces.

Let me begin by expressing my support for the underlying bill. Connecticut set an example for the rest of the country when we adopted a ban on the use of pesticides on the grounds of our elementary and middle schools. Scientific studies have concluded what may seem obvious—exposure to pesticides is harmful to children's health, and it makes sense to limit the use of these poisons in additional public spaces.

I would like to draw your attention specifically to the chemical glyphosate, more commonly known by its trade name "Roundup." As an herbicide, it falls under the existing school pesticide ban under CGS Sec. 10-231a, and for good reason. Studies have shown a link between glyphosate and serious health problems, including: DNA damage, premature births and miscarriages, birth defects, multiple types of cancer, and disruption of neurological development in children.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reported that glyphosate is the most commonly used herbicide in U.S. agriculture, and the second most commonly used weed killer for home and garden. Glyphosate ends up in the air we breathe and the water we drink. A 2011 study by the U.S. Geological Survey Office examined air and water samples taken from two states over a two-year period. It found glyphosate present in every water sample examined in Mississippi, and in most of the air samples taken.

A new product will soon be marketed in Connecticut—unless we take action—that will dramatically increase the amount of glyphosate sprayed on soil and introduced into the air, streams and rivers of Connecticut. Genetically modified and engineered (GMO) grass seed is

slated for field testing this spring and summer; introduction of this product could begin as early as next year.

I respectfully request that the Public Health Committee consider adding language to HB 5330 that would ban genetically modified grass seed and other genetically modified annual and perennial plants and landscaping plants in Connecticut.

As I have already said, glyphosate itself poses health risks. Even worse are the long-term environmental consequences to our state's environment and the Long Island Sound. Any chemical you spray on the land will affect the chemistry and biology of the land, and the runoff will affect the watercourses and water quality of the state.

Some may claim that increasing the use of glyphosate is not so bad, given that it is not as toxic as other herbicides such as 2,4-D. I would suggest that is the wrong way to look at environmental stewardship, and the wrong way to create a legacy for our children and future generations. What makes the prospect of GMO grass seed and landscape plants so damaging is that it opens the door to a massive increase in the proliferation of toxic chemicals in our environment. Those who are concerned about the quality of our air, our water, of the viability of aquatic life in Long Island Sound, need to be concerned about the prospect of a quantum leap in the amount of toxic herbicides that will be poured into Connecticut's soil and waters. The issue is not just glyphosate—a major corporation is now moving forward with GMO agriculture products that will be resistant to the stronger and more poisonous 2,4-D, which will cause even more damage to our environment. The Wall Street Journal that, "some of the old pesticides—in particular, those called 2,4-D and dicamba—have a history of posing more risks for the environment than the chemical in Roundup. That's partly because they have more of a tendency to drift on the wind onto neighboring farms or wild vegetation."

The GMO plants that will survive heavy spraying with 2,4-D are being engineered because Roundup-ready plants and the use of glyphosate have created super weeds—weeds that are resistant to glyphosate. This is similar to the overuse of antibiotics—initially, everything is killed; over time, however, resistance builds and effectiveness disappears. The GMO products that promised less use of herbicides have actually resulted in much greater use, and as resistance builds the GMOs require the use of even more powerful and toxic herbicides.

When it comes to lawns, I know from personal experience that simply cutting my lawn at a higher setting and using occasional low-strength organic fertilizer is the best way to go in terms of weed control and protecting lawns against drought and scorching. Introducing genetically modified seed and large quantities of toxic chemicals is guaranteed to have multiple adverse and unintended consequences. The recent collapse of the honeybee and monarch butterfly populations has been linked to increased use of herbicides and pesticides. The dramatic decrease in the lobster population in the Long Island Sound has been linked to pesticide runoff. Last year Governor Dannel Malloy signed a bill banning the use of the pesticides methoprene and resmethrin in coastal areas due to their toxicity to fish, lobsters, and other aquatic life. Glyphosate can retain its toxic qualities in water for between 12 and 90 days.

I bring this to your attention because we are at a critical juncture. It is not often that we can so clearly see two pathways ahead. The question is whether we will have the vision and foresight to choose the right path, and recognize that the time to act is now. We can ban GMO grass seed and landscaping plants now, before their introduction, and stop the guaranteed environmental destruction that will occur over the next five to ten years and beyond. If we do not take action, next year literally could be too late.

For these reasons and the other reasons in my additional testimony below, I urge the committee to amend this important legislation in the manner I have described. Thank you for your time and support.

(Additional testimony):

Genetic engineering of plant resistance to glyphosate is a practice already well-established in commercial agriculture. "Roundup Ready" crops account for at least 90 percent of the soybeans and 70 percent of the corn and cotton grown in the United States. With so much glyphosate being sprayed on so many weeds, it was only a matter of time before the weeds began to evolve a resistance to the chemical, and this is exactly what has occurred.

A recent report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on genetically engineered crops states that, "Glyphosate resistance is currently documented in 14 U.S. weed species (Heap, 2012), and the potential exists for much more acreage to be affected (Frisvold et al., 2009; Shaw et al., 2011)."

The report continues:

Because no new major herbicide chemistry has been made commercially available in the last 20 years, and because few new ones are expected to be available soon (Harker et al., 2012), many plant scientists believe that slowing the rate of glyphosate resistance and the spread of glyphosate-resistant (GR) weeds are among the most important problems facing U.S. crop producers (NRC, 2010, 2012).

Glyphosate-resistant weeds are now present among soybean, cotton and corn crops (all of which exist in "Roundup ready" varieties) in at least 22 states and also in other countries. The New York Time describes one such mutated weed, pigweed, which, "can grow three inches a day and reach seven feet or more, choking out crops; it is so sturdy that it can damage harvesting equipment."

Introduction of large amounts of glyphosate to American lawns is sure to cause lawn weeds to evolve a resistance to the chemical just as has occurred in commercial agriculture. Agricultural biotechnology expert Douglas Gurian-Sherman of the Union of Concerned Scientists warns that, "The more a chemical is used consistently, the more likely that somebody's weeds will become resistant. That's standard, agreed-upon science. The way that Roundup is used because of transgenic crops exacerbates that problem."

As glyphosate loses its effectiveness, the alternatives are even less attractive. Recall how the USDA report warns, "no new major herbicide chemistry has been made commercially available

in the last 20 years.” The alternatives are older chemicals, widely regarded as even more toxic. Companies like Monsanto are already working on new GMO plants that would be resistant to the older chemicals. I would argue that rather than solving the weed-resistance problem, the GMO grass seed approach would compound it.

We should also be concerned about the ease with which GMO grass seed could spread into the wild. Before experimenting with Kentucky bluegrass, Scotts Miracle-Gro first attempted to genetically modify another grass species known as bentgrass, and was fined \$500,000 in 2007 by the federal government for failing to contain the grass in approved test fields, despite considerable efforts to do so.

Not only can GMO grass plants and their seeds spread into the wild, but their genetically modified genes may also be cross-bred with other, similar species. Wired Magazine interviewed plant geneticist Norman Ellstrand of the University of California, Riverside, on this subject, who said, “I don’t know what other bluegrass species it’s cross-compatible with, but I can say with 98 percent certainty that it’s cross-compatible with some. If this plant grows and flowers at the same time as other bluegrass, they’ll flourish. You’ll have a new incidence of herbicide resistance getting into the wild.”

As resistance to glyphosate spreads further into the wild and into additional species, the effectiveness of glyphosate will further erode, leading to additional environmental consequences and a greater reliance on more toxic pesticides.

Unlike the GMO bentgrass described above, the new GMO Kentucky bluegrass is not subject to federal regulation of any kind, due to a technicality in federal law exempting certain methods of genetic modification from oversight. Scotts Miracle-Gro CEO Jim Hagedorn has spoken publicly about the company’s GMO bluegrass, stating that, “I think we will see limited commercial activity the following year (2015), and I think, if all goes well, much more (activity) in the consumer market in 2016.”

As a perennial plant, grass spreads much more readily than annual plants, which must be replanted every year. Common GMO crops like corn are annual plants, which help make them easier to contain in designated areas. Genetically modified perennial plants therefore merit a higher level of regulation and oversight. We must also be mindful of emerging trends in genetic modification of other plants. In cooperation with Monsanto Corporation, Scotts Miracle-Gro has also explored the genetic modification of flowers for glyphosate resistance. Our response to the imminent availability of GMO grass seed should not be limited to grass seed only.

Once corporations establish significant market share in the sale of GMO seeds they typically raise the price significantly—the price of GMO soybean and corn seeds grew by about 50 percent in real terms (adjusted for inflation) between 2001 and 2010.

Elaine Titus
West Simsbury, CT

Testimony in favor of HB 5330

AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT PARKS,
PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS.

To protect children's health from exposure to toxic lawn pesticides by applying the same restrictions concerning the application of lawn pesticides at school grounds to the application of pesticides at parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and municipal greens.

I have two children who both played sports in the spring and fall for nearly a decade on the town athletic fields starting from kindergarten through 7th grade. My youngest child is now a freshman in high school. One of the things that we looked forward to enjoying together as a family was the time after school to watch our children play soccer on the town athletic fields in the fall and lacrosse in the spring. An activity that many families in our communities enjoy.

According to research, 60% of kids play sports outside of school. That means that the current law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides that covers school grounds from kindergarten through grade 8 is not protecting a large majority of our children who leave school each and every day to play their favorite sport on the town athletic fields. We know that the most commonly used pesticides are 2,4-D (the main ingredient in Agent Orange used in Vietnam) and Glyphosate (the main ingredient in Round UP). We also know that these toxic lawn chemicals are linked to cancer, birth defects, reproductive issues, neurological damage, liver and kidney damage and endocrine disruption. We have seen an exponential growth in neurological disorders such as hyperactivity, developmental delays, behavioral disorders and motor dysfunction that may be linked to our children's exposure to these chemicals. Children age 6-11 have the highest level of chemicals in their blood than all other age categories according to studies. Our innocent children are exposed to these toxic chemicals through drift, hand-to-mouth behavior and unknowingly tracking it into our homes. If we don't take action now to extend the ban our children will continue to be exposed to these life threatening, toxic chemicals. Instead of running around happily playing sports, they will be sick at home or in a hospital fighting deadly diseases and disorders like cancer. Young mothers will have reproductive issues like my friend who lived near a golf course and couldn't conceive but when she moved away was quickly able to get pregnant and have the family that she dreamed of. Young mothers will also give birth to children with birth defects and may never be able to enjoy playing or watching sports on our athletic fields with their families.

If we extend the ban to parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and municipal greens, we can protect our children and ensure that they live a life filled with joy running around with their friends playing their favorite sports. Please support HB 5330 and give our children the future they deserve free from TOXIC CHEMICAL TRESPASS.

Testimony In Support of HB 5330

An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields, and Municipal Greens.

Good morning, my name is Terri Eickel and I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playground, Athletic Fields, and Municipal Greens. I am the Executive Director of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network – we are a faith-based environmental organization and on behalf of the hundreds of congregations and thousands of people of faith that I represent, I want to urge you to support this bill. Pesticides are some of the most toxic chemicals known to man and have been linked to cancer, birth defects, and developmental delays

- A recent study published in the journal Neurology found that low-level pesticide exposure increased the risk of Parkinson's disease <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/272097.php>
- Another study, released in the spring of 2013 by the National Institute of Health found excess cancer risk among those applying pesticides and those who were bystanders to the procedure. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23322675>
- A study by the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center that was published in Nov 2013 found that women exposed to two pesticides classified as organochlorine pesticides had an increased risk of endometriosis of 50% - 70% <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/268399.php> Both of these pesticides have estrogenic properties, which is why they are able to promote hormone-based disease. Even though these two pesticides are now banned, researchers felt that these pesticides persist in the environment so strongly that women are still at risk. I can say with certainty that these are not the only two estrogenic pesticides that are still in use. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1241915/>
- According to a study by the National Toxicology Program, we are exposed to between 3,570 – 7,500 chemicals daily – and potentially all of them are within the “safe” levels as prescribed by the industry, but taken together, we are exposed to 35 times to 75 times the dose considered toxic to animals. Another study by Richard Relyea of Pittsburgh University found that pesticides and other toxic chemicals were much more damaging and carcinogenic when combined

Pesticides are clearly unsafe for humans. It takes only 26 seconds for chemicals to enter your bloodstream. Picture this – it's the Fourth of July. You bring your baby (or your grandbaby) to the municipal green to watch the fireworks. It's hot and it's the Fourth of July, so your baby has some sort of ridiculously adorable jumper involving stars and maybe a few stripes. Your baby crawls off the blanket and on to the grass, getting their feet, legs, arms, and hands in contact with the grass. 26 seconds is all it takes for the pesticides that have been sprayed onto the grass to enter your baby's bloodstream

We have a moral, ethical, and spiritual responsibility to take care of the planet and to take care of its inhabitants. Toxic pesticides are not in keeping with this ethic and we must phase them out now – the risk to public health is too great if we wait.

On a personal note, I am also a cancer survivor and I can tell you that avoiding toxins is a huge part of my survivorship plan. I was diagnosed three and a half years ago with advanced breast cancer. I didn't have a family history and I was a total health nut – all of my doctors were completely confused – how did someone like me end up so very, very sick? I believe that environmental toxins played a significant role

I did every treatment under the sun – chemo, surgery, radiation – I was in active treatment for a year and a half. I also investigated alternative and integrative approaches and have read countless studies on lifestyle, diet, and toxins as they relate to cancer. All of my oncologists will tell say that toxic chemicals not only contribute to the development of cancer, but also to its growth. This process, called carcinogenesis, doesn't just trigger the disease – it continues after the disease has started. Thus, it is imperative for someone like me to avoid toxins as much as possible. And I do avoid them, but choosing what I eat and drink and clean with – very carefully. But I can't choose what toxic pesticides someone else is going to use on a park and that elevated risk seems unfair. I'm doing my best to beat this disease and it isn't fair that I should have to be exposed to the very substances that contribute to its growth.

Finally, pesticides don't contribute to healthy lawns or healthy turf. Like a candy bar that gives you a sugar rush, but ultimately leaves you depleted, pesticides provide artificial nutrients that result in shorter root systems. These short root systems make the turf less stable and the grass less able to draw nutrients and water from deep in the soil. The land becomes addicted to these toxic chemicals just to survive, which means we need to continue applying them.

We can do better. We must do better. We have to do more to protect public health and the environment from these dangerous toxic pesticides.

Terri Eickel, Executive Director
Interreligious Eco-Justice Network
Hartford, CT

Low-level pesticide exposure linked to Parkinson's disease

Tuesday 4 February 2014 - 12am PST

Parkinson's Disease

Featured Article

Water - Air Quality / Agriculture

Academic Journal

Public Health

Primary Care / General Practice

According to the Parkinson's disease foundation, more than 1 million Americans have the disease. Now, new research suggests that exposure to pesticides may increase the risk of the disease and that individuals with specific gene variants may be more susceptible. This is according to a study recently published in the journal *Neurology*.

In a previous study published in *PNAS* last year, the research team, including Dr. Jeff M. Bronstein of the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), first uncovered a link between Parkinson's disease and a pesticide called benomyl.

Benomyl is a fungicide. Its use was banned by the US Environmental Protection Agency in 2001 after being deemed a possible carcinogen.

The investigators discovered that benomyl blocks an enzyme called aldehyde dehydrogenase (ALDH). This enzyme changes aldehydes that are toxic to dopamine cells into those that are less toxic. If ALDH is blocked, this can play a part in the development of Parkinson's disease.

For this most recent study, the researchers set out to determine whether other pesticides may have a similar effect.

They analyzed 360 individuals with Parkinson's disease from three Californian counties and compared these with 819 people in the same areas who were free of the disease.

The investigators monitored the participants' exposure to pesticides both at work and home. This was done using a geographic computer model based on data from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

The researchers also created a laboratory test to determine what pesticides block ALDH in participants.

Pesticides 'increase Parkinson's risk at low concentrations'

The investigators discovered a further 11 pesticides that block ALDH and increase the risk of Parkinson's disease.

They also found that these pesticides increased Parkinson's risk at significantly lower levels than what were being used.

Commenting on the findings, Dr. Bronstein says:

"We were very surprised that so many pesticides inhibited ALDH and at quite low concentrations, concentrations that were way below what was needed for the pesticides to do their job.

These pesticides are pretty ubiquitous, and can be found on our food supply and are used in parks and golf courses and in pest control inside buildings and homes. So this significantly broadens the number of people at risk."

Individuals with genetic variant 'at greater risk'

Furthermore, the researchers discovered that participants who possessed a common genetic variant of the ALDH2 gene were more susceptible to the ALDH-blocking effects of the pesticides, and were two to six times more likely to develop Parkinson's, compared with pesticide-exposed individuals who did not have the genetic variant.

However, the investigators note that individuals who had the genetic variant who were not exposed to pesticides did not demonstrate increased risk of Parkinson's disease.

"ALDH inhibition appears to be an important mechanism by which these environmental toxins contribute to Parkinson's pathogenesis, especially in genetically vulnerable individuals," says Prof. Beate Ritz of the Fielding School of Public Health at UCLA and co-author of the study

"This suggests several potential interventions to reduce Parkinson's occurrence or to slow its progression," she adds.

The investigators conclude that therapies involving modulating ALDH enzyme activity or eliminating toxic aldehydes should be created. They say these interventions could potentially reduce the occurrence of Parkinson's disease or slow its progression for individuals exposed to pesticides

Medical News Today recently reported on a study suggesting that exposure to a byproduct of the pesticide DDT may increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease.

Written by Honor Whiteman



View all articles written by Honor, or follow Honor on



Copyright: Medical News Today

Not to be reproduced without the permission of Medical News Today.

PubMed

Display Settings: Abstract

CA Cancer J Clin 2013 Mar-Apr;63(2) 120-42 doi 10.3322/caac.21170 Epub 2013 Jan 15**Increased cancer burden among pesticide applicators and others due to pesticide exposure.**Alavanja MC¹, Ross MK, Bonner MR.**Author information****Abstract**

A growing number of well-designed epidemiological and molecular studies provide substantial evidence that the pesticides used in agricultural, commercial, and home and garden applications are associated with excess cancer risk. This risk is associated both with those applying the pesticide and, under some conditions, those who are simply bystanders to the application. In this article, the epidemiological, molecular biology, and toxicological evidence emerging from recent literature assessing the link between specific pesticides and several cancers including prostate cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia, multiple myeloma, and breast cancer are integrated. Although the review is not exhaustive in its scope or depth, the literature does strongly suggest that the public health problem is real. If we are to avoid the introduction of harmful chemicals into the environment in the future, the integrated efforts of molecular biology, pesticide toxicology, and epidemiology are needed to help identify the human carcinogens and thereby improve our understanding of human carcinogenicity and reduce cancer risk.

Copyright © 2013 American Cancer Society, Inc.

Comment in

Increased cancer burden among pesticide applicators and others due to pesticide exposure. [CA Cancer J Clin. 2013]

Reply to Increased cancer burden among pesticide applicators and others due to pesticide exposure. [CA Cancer J Clin 2013]

PMID 23322675 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Publication Types, MeSH Terms, Substances**LinkOut - more resources****PubMed Commons**[PubMed Commons home](#)

Pesticide exposure linked to increased endometriosis risk

Tuesday 5 November 2013 - 8am PST

Women's Health / Gynecology

Featured Article

Fertility

Academic Journal

Water - Air Quality / Agriculture

Endometriosis is a common condition that affects around 10% of women in their reproductive years. New research has found that two organochlorine pesticides - once widely used in the US for pest control and agriculture but now banned - are linked to an increased risk of the chronic condition.

Researchers from Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, WA, published the results of their study in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, a journal of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

They note that though endometriosis is noncancerous, it is characterized by tissue - which normally lines the inside of the uterus or womb - growing outside and attaching to other areas or organs, affecting the ovaries, fallopian tubes and lining of the pelvic cavity

Common symptoms typically include painful menstrual periods, pelvic pain and infertility.

Kristen Upson, PhD, a study author who is now a postdoctoral fellow at the Epidemiology Branch of the NIEHS, says:

"For many women, the symptoms of endometriosis can be chronic and debilitating, negatively affecting health-related quality of life, personal relationships and work productivity."

Because endometriosis is a condition led by estrogen, Upson notes that they "were interested in investigating the role of environmental chemicals that have estrogenic properties, such as organochlorine pesticides, on the risk of the disease."

Pesticides raise endometriosis risk to 30-70%

According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), organochlorine pesticides are man-made chemicals that were used in the recent past for agricultural and household pest problems

Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) is one of the most well-known organochlorines, and it

was "heavily applied in agricultural regions," says the USGS. Although these types of pesticides are no longer used in the US, the organization notes that they are still present in the environment.

To conduct their study, the researchers used data from the Women's Risk of Endometriosis study, which is a population-based case-control study of endometriosis in women aged 18- to 49-years-old.

There were 248 women who had recently been diagnosed with endometriosis and 538 women without the condition who served as controls.



In the US, certain pesticides that are no longer in use are still in blood samples of women today, and this recent study links the chemicals to an increased risk of endometriosis

Results of the research showed that women who had higher exposures to two organochlorine pesticides - beta-hexachlorocyclohexane and mirex - had a 30-70% increased risk of endometriosis.

The study authors say they found it interesting that these types of chemicals were found in the blood samples of women from the study, despite the fact that organochlorine pesticides have been banned in the US for several decades.

"The take-home message from our study," says Upson, "is that the persistent environmental chemicals, even those used in the past, may affect the health of the current generation of reproductive-age women with regard to a hormonally driven disease."

'Another piece of the puzzle'

This research is important, say the authors, because the medical community still does not entirely understand why some women develop endometriosis while others do not.

Study co-author Prof. Victoria Holt adds that their study "provides another piece of the puzzle."

They point to other lab studies of human tissue that have shown organochlorine pesticides display "estrogenic properties" and "adverse reproductive effects," which can alter the uterus, ovaries and hormone production.

"Given these actions," says Upson, "it's plausible that organochlorine pesticides could increase the risk of an estrogen-driven disease such as endometriosis."

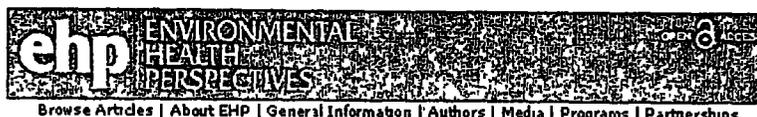
Medical News Today recently reported that pesticides have been linked to type 2 diabetes.

Written by Marie Ellis



View all articles written by Marie, or follow Marie on:





Environ Health Perspect. Apr 2004, 112(5) 524-531
 Research Article

PMCID PMC1241915

Screening for estrogen and androgen receptor activities in 200 pesticides by in vitro reporter gene assays using Chinese hamster ovary cells.

Hirovuki Kojima, Eiji Katsura, Shinji Takeuchi, Kazuhito Niyama, and Kunihiko Kobayashi

Hokkaido Institute of Public Health, Kita-19, Nishi 12, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-0819, Japan kojima@iph.pref.hokkaido.jp

[Copyright notice](#)

This article has been cited by other articles in PMC

Abstract

We tested 200 pesticides, including some of their isomers and metabolites, for agonism and antagonism to two human estrogen receptor (hER) subtypes, hERalpha and hERbeta, and a human androgen receptor (hAR) by highly sensitive transactivation assays using Chinese hamster ovary cells. The test compounds were classified into nine groups: organochlorines, diphenyl ethers, organophosphorus pesticides, pyrethroids, carbamates, acid amides, triazines, ureas, and others. These pesticides were tested at concentrations < 10⁻⁵ M. Of the 200 pesticides tested, 47 and 33 showed hER- and hERbeta-mediated estrogenic activities, respectively. Among them, 29 pesticides had both hERalpha and hERbeta agonistic activities, and the effects of the organochlorine insecticides beta-benzene hexachloride (BHC) and delta-BHC and the carbamate insecticide methiocarb were predominantly hERbeta rather than hERalpha agonistic. Weak antagonistic effects toward hERalpha and hERbeta were shown in five and two pesticides, respectively. On the other hand, none of tested pesticides showed hAR-mediated androgenic activity, but 66 of 200 pesticides exhibited inhibitory activity against the transcriptional activity induced by 5alpha-dihydrotestosterone. In particular, the antiandrogenic activities of two diphenyl ether herbicides, chlornitrofen and chlomethoxyfen, were higher than those of vinclozolin and p,p'-dichlorodiphenyl dichloroethylene, known AR antagonists. The results of our ER and AR assays show that 34 pesticides possessed both estrogenic and antiandrogenic activities, indicating pleiotropic effects on hER and hAR. We also discussed chemical structures related to these activities. Taken together, our findings suggest that a variety of pesticides have estrogenic and/or antiandrogenic potential via ER and/or AR, and that numerous other manmade chemicals may also possess such estrogenic and antiandrogenic activities.

Full Text

The Full Text of this article is available as a [PDF \(180K\)](#)

Selected References

These references are in PubMed. This may not be the complete list of references from this article.

- Andersen Helle Raun, Vinggaard Anne Marie, Rasmussen Thomas Hoj, Gjermansen Irene Marianne, Bonefeld-Jørgensen Eva Cecilie. Effects of currently used pesticides in assays for estrogenicity, androgenicity, and aromatase activity in vitro. *Toxicol Appl Pharmacol.* 2002 Feb 15;179(1):1-12. [[PubMed](#)]
- Bauer ER, Meyer HH, Stahlschmidt-Allner P, Sauerwein H. Application of an androgen receptor assay for the characterisation of the androgenic or antiandrogenic activity of various phenylurea herbicides and their derivatives. *Analyst.* 1998 Dec;123(12) 2485-2487. [[PubMed](#)]



Connecticut Parks Association, Inc.

www.ctparks.org

March 13, 2014

To the Members of The Public Health Committee:

The Connecticut Parks Association appreciates this opportunity to offer my comments in opposition to Raised Bill HP 5330, An Act concerning, The Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens.

As the President of the CT Park Association, I would like to tell you that the Association has been active since 1958. Our purpose is to promote accession, development, maintenance and preservation of our parks and natural resources throughout the state.

Our organization is made up of over 160 park professionals throughout the state. As the demands of the community to have the best and safest fields has risen over the years, many towns have assigned their park departments to the maintenance of school grounds, Towns have turned to their park departments because they have the highest caliber of staff training for proper turf management.

Turf athletic fields, when properly maintained, are more forgiving to athletes when playing. Environmentally, they contribute to the oxygen and gas cycles. Improperly maintained fields can be a contributing factor to pulled muscles, broken bones and even career ending injuries and concessions.. (While pesticides are not frequently used on these fields, there are key periods when they are needed They are used to combat infestation of crabgrass or reduce grub infestation to keep a strong root system.

Our organizations supports Best Management Practices Utilizing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which is the integration of knowledge and cultural-management systems designed to improve the long-term health of turf-grass (and other crops) through the suppression of problem pests. The overriding goal of IPM is to minimize the impact on humans, the environment and non-target organisms.

Common IPM techniques include the following:

1. Use of unbiased information
2. Quality monitoring
3. Anticipation of pest-population increases
4. Use of naturally occurring biological controls (I.E., use of pest-resistant plant species)
5. Adoption of cultural-management practices
6. Carefully selected applications of products after monitoring and establishing thresholds have been met.

An IPM program protects the financial investment Towns have made in school grounds and athletic fields. IPM utilities trained, regulated and licensed professionals

The Connecticut Park Association supports The Municipal Opportunities for Regional Efficiencies (MORE) Mandates working group, recently adopted recommendations to:

- 1 Utilize the Pesticide Advisory Council, as constituted in CGS Section 22a-65(d) to (a) review all new pesticide on a continuing basis for safety and effectiveness and (b) report their findings to the Commissioner of DEEP for consideration in adopting regulations.
- 2 Require DEEP, in consultation with the Pesticide Advisory Council, create, publish, and regularly update a set of best practices, including a review of the Massachusetts IPM monitoring websites (www.massnrc.org), for use by municipalities regarding the safe and effective use of both synthetic and organic pesticides.

Also consider the long term environmental damage that will be caused by Emerald Ash Borer to ash trees, because we cannot use low toxicity products to control them should the ban on IPM be expanded. IPM is necessary to treat.

We, as a professional organization, rely on science and the research plan at universities throughout the country and our state to provide us with the scientific facts, as well as the DEEP. Our organization works with UConn, experimental center and the extension centers to provide us with the most updated research and techniques to be used in our profession.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Calarco CSFM, CPRA, AOLCP
President Ct Park Association
860-530-1281

Middletown Project Green Lawn



Chem-free Lawns

TESTIMONY

In Support of

HB 5330 An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds,
Athletic Fields and Municipal Grounds

Public Health Committee Public Hearing

March 14, 2014

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee,

...Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this issue, vital to protecting public health, particularly the health of CT's children. Project Green Lawn is a Middletown-based public awareness campaign created to educate residents, businesses and institutions about the health and environmental risks of traditional lawn care chemicals and the benefits of organic lawn care. Members include children's advocates, environmental groups, members of the City's Recycling Commission and Conservation Commission and public health professionals. Project Green Lawn has hosted a variety of public education events since 2005 and has worked closely with the City to improve organic lawn care efforts on municipal grounds.

HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Grounds, is an important and necessary additional step forward to protect the health of all children in Connecticut. Currently, state law does not allow lawn care pesticides on school grounds K-8. This bill will extend that ban of these toxic chemicals to all public areas, where our children and others can still be involuntarily exposed despite the known health risks.

Page 2, Middletown Project Green Lawn HB 5330 Testimony, March 14,, 2014

There are compelling reasons not to allow lawn care pesticides on public grounds. Numerous studies have linked the 30 commonly used lawn pesticides with serious health effects, including 19 studies linking these pesticides with cancer, 13 with birth defects, 21 with reproductive effects, and 15 with neurotoxicity or abnormal brain development. Other studies have linked these pesticides with hyperactivity, developmental delays, behavioral disorders and motor dysfunction. Children are particularly vulnerable due to their rapidly developing bodies. When pesticides are applied, children can be exposed when they walk on or play in the grass. The pesticides can also be tracked indoors, where they can persist for long periods of time, exposing children and their family members even if they were not in contact with the grass.

Given the overwhelming evidence, why would we put our children's health at risk for cosmetic reasons?

There are safe, effective and affordable alternatives to these toxic pesticides for both grounds and fields. Lawns and fields can be maintained to the highest of standards without the use of dangerous chemicals. It may be a different way of doing business for typical municipal grounds employees and landscapers and require retraining, but safe, proven methods do exist and many municipalities have made the switch successfully, including Branford and Cheshire. Our friends in New York have a state law that bans lawn care pesticides on all schools, providing numerous examples of beautiful turfs maintained organically.

Considering there are so many unknowns and so much plausible evidence about the dangers of these chemicals, it seems unconscionable to continue to expose our children to these risks. CT made the important step of protecting its younger school children from exposure at their schools, but now it is time to protect our children in all places where they play.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact Project Green Lawn staff, Kim O'Rourke, Middletown's Recycling Coordinator, at 860-638-4855 or kim.orourke@MiddletownCT.Gov.

Craig Mansfield

Public Health Committee
Public Hearing
March 14, 2014

Opposition of Raised Bill No. 5330
**AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT PARKS,
PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS**

Dear Public Health Committee,

The Town of East Haddam and the East Haddam School District prides ourselves on the appearance of our grounds and fields thought our community. East Haddam has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in building our athletic fields and because of the pesticide restrictions, we are not able to properly take care of them. Additionally, these restrictions have caused a substantial amount of additional work and expense to maintain these fields and they are deteriorating more and more every year as a result.

The products which we are being prevented from using have been vetted by the EPA and the CT DEEP and are safe to use responsibly. The EPA is constantly reviewing these products and, if they discover that a product, after a period of time for whatever reason, is unsafe, they remove it from the market.

When the law went into effect, it was written to say that absolutely NO pesticides could be used on the fields and properties. This meant that any pesticide, no matter what it's chemical makeup, no matter what it was being used for, no matter what it's degree of toxicity could be used. It would have been better and more reasonable if the law allowed for a group of scientists, educators and administrators to review the most commonly used products and decide which are the safest and most effective for use.

East Haddam has had the UCONN agricultural group, local horticultural groups and several landscape companies look at our fields. We have spent thousands of dollars following different recommendations and at the end of the day we still have fields at our Middle and Elementary schools that are an embarrassment to our community.

The passing of raised bill # 5330 will not only increase the cost to our municipality to maintain or grounds but will have a drastic effect (as proven by the issues with our K-8 field) on the beauty of all our town properties.

We all agree that there is nothing more important than the health and safety of the children and residents of our community but do believe there are products on the market today that are vetted and could be used to help improve the quality of our grounds while maintaining the safety of all our residents.

Sincerely,

Craig Mansfield

Craig Mansfield
Director of Facilities and Emergency Management
Town of East Haddam / Board of Education
7 Main Street, PO Box K
East Haddam, CT 6423
Tel #: 860-873-6019
Fax #: 860-873-5047
Email: cmansfield@easthaddam.org

Aimee Petras
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Aimee Petras
230 Quaker Lane South
West Hartford, CT 06119

Alessandra Urist
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Alessandra Urist
15 Plunkett Pl
Westport, CT 06880

Maria Rickert Hong
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Maria Rickert Hong
3 Road
Westport, CT 06880

Michael Ray
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Michael Ray
70 County Rd.
Somers, CT 06071

Susan VanDerzee
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Susan VanDerzee
84 Oak Terrace
Address Line 2
Durham, CT 06422

James and Doreen Reichard
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

James and Doreen Reichard and Family
4 Mohegan Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902

Lori Mossberg
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Lori Mossberg
310 Blue Trail
Hamden, CT 06518

Frank Pach
HB 5330

Hello,

My name is Frank Pach, I strongly object to the bill being debated about the ban of pesticides on municipally owned fields. The products have been used for decades, and have been tested and proven safe. I have been a referee for High school level soccer for the past 25 years. Having a well maintained pitch is necessary for the safety of the players. The fields are for the use of all town residents including the many other sports and recreation associations.

Thank you,
Frank Pach

Olivia Schlosser
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Olivia Schlosser
9 Atwoodville Lane
Mansfield Center, CT 06250

Jon Schroth
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Jon Schroth
21 W Silver St
Middletown, CT 06457

Cathy Heyne
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Cathy Heyne
60 Coachlamp Lane
Darien, CT 06820

Monica
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Monika Ph
na
WH, CT 06107

Jaclyn Zolnik
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Jaclyn Zolnik
210 Mica Hill Road
Durham, CT 06422

Catherine Bisceglia
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

catherine bisceglia
39 augur lane
durham, CT 06422

Illisa Kelman
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

illisa kelman
97 avon street
new haven, CT 06511

Thea Mills
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,
Thea Mills

Thea Mills
40 Monroe st
Meriden, CT 06451

Fran Goldstein
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

fran goldstein
43 good hill rd
weston, CT 06883

Jennifer Fowler
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides

Sincerely,
Jennifer Fowler

Jennifer Fowler
283 Maiden Lane
Durham, CT 06422

Jen Huddleston
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Jen Huddleston
2 High Street
Middlefield, CT 06455

Cinzia Panetti

HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Cinzia Panetti
262 Lukes wood rd.
New Canaan CT, CT 06840

Diane St. John
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

I am writing you in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens.

I have witnessed children playing sports on freshly sprayed ball fields and no one paid any attention to the posted yellow warning signs. Last summer we visited Community Lake Park in Wallingford to bike ride on the Quinnipiac Linear Trail and we left when we saw the vast playground lawn had recently been sprayed the day before. The little pesticide signs were posted and were ignored by many. There were families enjoying the park, families having parties in the pavilion, and children running across the lawn and playing games. It made me very sad knowing all those people were being exposed to the chemicals. The general public has no idea the danger they are being exposed to. We need to protect our citizens from these dangers.

I personally take an active role in teaching organic lawn care practices and know it works. There is no need to subject our citizens to these toxins anymore!

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Thank you for listening,

Diane St John

Mom of 3 children ages 9, 11 and 13.

and

CT Master Gardener

Accredited Organic Land Care Professional Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Professional

Diane St John
54 Deer Run Rd
Durham, CT 06422

Testimony of Theresa Velendzas Before the Connecticut
General Assembly of Public Health Committee
March 14th, 2014

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, co-Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting HB 5330 and Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens.

As a mother of two young children ages 4 & 7 trying to be careful about exposure to toxins has become an increasing challenge. More and more I feel as though there is a danger lurking behind every corner. When I take my children to the park and they want to roll down the hill, sit on the grass or run barefoot, I cannot allow them to because I have no idea if and when a pesticide has been applied. Often times, I am faced with the response "But Mom! Look! The other kids are doing it!", and I cringe. How do you explain chemical trespass to children of this age? It's hard to explain that someone would spray a poison knowing that children might roll in it and get sick - way into the future - but that the adult spraying it doesn't MEAN to hurt anyone, or doesn't THINK what they are doing might hurt someone. It's hard to explain such a thing is "allowed". In fact, it's hard for me to comprehend.

I remember a time when I didn't have to worry about walking barefoot or playing in the grass with my dog at a park. If my children want to just run on the grass in town, I have no idea if it is saturated with pesticides and so to be safe, I redirect them.

The world we live in has become unnecessarily laden with toxic chemicals that put our youngest at risk. We need to reverse this trend and start reclaiming the right to live in a toxic free world. Our children deserve this.

As many experts will testify before you, there is a sharp rise in childhood and adult cancers, behavioral disorders, and respiratory illness and these exposures to toxins are beginning very early as umbilical cord analyses show. I am here today to support advocacy efforts to remove pesticides from public areas where children spend a lot of time. HB 5330 does just that.

I'd like to thank you for your time and work on this and let you know I sincerely hope we can have these new measures passed.

Respectfully,

Theresa Velendzas
Glastonbury CT
TVelendzas@sbcglobal.net

Sallie Herson
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Sallie Herson
3 eno st.
Windsor, CT 06095

Susan Van Ness
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Susan Van Ness
1160 S MAIN ST
Apt 222
Middletown, CT 06457

Barbara Ryden
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Barbara Ryden
91 Long Hill Farm

Kathleen Tepper
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Tepper
186 Gillies Lane
Norwalk, CT 06854

Corey Pane
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Corey Pane
40 Crestwood Rd
West Hartford, CT 06107

Rebecca Holley
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Holley

Rebecca Holley
31 Cedar Ridge Drive
Hebron, CT 06248

Deirdre Doran
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Doran
242 Weston Road
Weston, CT 06883

Dennis F. Hallahan
HB5330

To whom it may concern: I am writing to oppose regulating the use of pesticides on public fields. There are safe pesticides and towns can apply them and not allow use for an appropriate time period. Each town/municipality should be allowed to make their own choice, if the town does not want to use them then that is their decision.

Best Regards, Dennis
Dennis F. Hallahan, P.E.
Technical Director



INFILTRATOR
systems inc

Infiltrator Systems, Inc.
4 Business Park Road
P.O. Box 768
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
P: 860-577-7100

www.infiltratorsystems.com
www.facebook.com/infiltratorsystemsinc
www.linkedin.com/company/infiltrator-systems-inc
www.youtube.com/user/InfiltratorSvsInc/videos

Kassandra Moss
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,
Kassandra Moss

Kassandra Moss
170 Main St
Durham, CT 06422

Suzanne Hauselt
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Hauselt

Suzanne Hauselt
5 Pond court
Wallingford, CT 06492

Steven Hallahan
HB 5330

Dear PHC, I understand the concerns of many with too many chemicals being used in places where our children play. However with trained and licensed applicators the use of such products has no factual data showing harm to our children. Without the use of these products we have no chance of maintaining playing fields as they will be overrun by weeds and insects. Furthermore the organic methods sound good but time has proved THEY DO NOT WORK. I strongly oppose any bill that would prohibit the use of these products. Thanks for listening

Steven Hallahan
Lyme Ct

Susan Sternberg
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Susan Sternberg
21 Barrett Street
Hamden, CT 06517

Kathy Weber
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Kathy Weber
132 Mack Rd.
Middlefield, CT 06455

Jane L. Brawerman ♦ 27 Summit Place ♦ Middletown, CT 06457

Testimony to the Committee on Public Health – March 14, 2014 Public Hearing

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Committee on Public Health, my name is Jane Brawerman and I am a resident of Middletown, CT. I am writing in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens, which I have both a professional interest in (as the Executive Director of a conservation organization) and personal interest in (as a parent). The bill would extend the ban on use of toxic lawn care pesticides, currently in place for K-8 schools, to other places where children play, including Connecticut parks, playgrounds and municipal fields. This is a critical step, necessary to protecting public health in Connecticut, particularly the health of children and their families.

The widespread application of toxic lawn care chemicals, used essentially for aesthetic purposes, poses many serious and well-documented health and environmental risks. People are exposed to these chemicals directly when sprayed on lawns and turf, and are also exposed when wells, aquifers and reservoirs become contaminated. Scientific studies have linked exposure to certain widely used lawn care chemicals with increased risk of asthma, childhood and adult cancers, birth defects, and reproductive problems, among others. Children, with their rapidly developing bodies, are especially susceptible. Lawn chemicals also make their way into the environment through rain runoff and drift, and are passed along through the food chain, contaminating fish and wildlife.

Places where children play are no place for toxic chemicals! Children are not only exposed directly when they play in areas treated with lawn care chemicals; they can also track them indoors, in their schools and homes, further exposing them, and exposing family members as well.

With all of the credible evidence of risks associated with use of lawn care chemicals, should we really be taking a chance on our children? Why would we put our children, who are most vulnerable, at risk, given that there are widely accepted, proven, viable, affordable and safe alternative lawn and turf care methods? There are many examples of beautiful turf maintained with safe, organic methods even here in CT, in Branford and Cheshire, for example. If you are not convinced that it's possible, I would urge you to see for yourself.

Your responsibility to protect the public health from harm—harm that has been well-documented through scientific investigation—is of utmost importance. In this case the precautionary principle should clearly come into play as part of your deliberations.

I respectfully urge your support of this critical bill. Please protect our children and their families by expanding the ban on use of toxic lawn care pesticides to all places where children play.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Timothy M. Cahill
HB 5330

I oppose this bill.

As a Father, coach and player on fields not only in my home town of East Haddam but throughout the state we are allowing an over-zealous pursuit of removing reasonable use of pesticides to prevent and eliminate harmful insects from fields and parks. The damage these pesticides cause result in fields that cause permanent injury to ankles, knees and lower backs of young athletes. Even more so to adult athletes that have more challenging recoveries.

AS a middle school soccer coach I have watch millions of dollars of tax payer investment deteriorate to dust bowl status because we have no cost effective way to fertilize and protect our investment in athletic fields as well as having to change an entire style of play because the turf at many field was so badly damaged by grubs.

I am quite sure that there is a reasonable process for limiting the use of harmful pesticides and still allowing for a preventive doses so these valuable resources can serve their purpose in a safe and comfortable way.

Timothy M. Cahill

Assistant Coach Nathan Hale Ray Middle School Boys Soccer
Former President East Haddam Soccer Club
Player – Moodus Rowdies Men's Soccer Club
Former Coach – East Haddam Little league
Avid outdoors person

Diane Keefe
HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Diane Keefe
249 chestnut Hill rd
Norwalk, CT 06851

Susan Huizenga
36 Surrey Drive
Wallingford CT 06492

March 10,2014

Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building

RE: Support HB-5330 to extend ban on lawn pesticides in public space

I have asthma. When my neighbors have chemicals applied to their lawns, I must change my dog walking plans because my lungs burn. From this experience I know 1st hand that lawn care pesticides can be harmful.

Daycare and Elementary School locations is a good 1st step but this is not an age limited exposure risk so extending it to all schools and public green space would be in the health interest of all of us.

Thank you

Susan Q. Huizenga

Jai Deshpande HB 5330

My name is Jai Deshpande. I am 7 years old I think HB 5330 is a good idea I hate pesticides and I don't think kids should be exposed to them because they could make us sick If your shoes touch it, it will get in your house Please support banning pesticides, it is a great idea! Thank you

Mira Deshpande HB 5330

My name is Mira Deshpande I am 11 years old I am worried about being exposed to pesticides when I play soccer. Please ban toxic pesticides wherever kids may walk and play My parents never use pesticides on our lawn We always remove our shoes in our house so that we don't track pesticides in on our shoes. Please help us protect our health. Please pass HB 5330. Thank you.

Bhajan Deshpande HB 5330

My name is Bhajan Deshpande I am 9 years old. Thank you for protecting me from pesticides on my school grounds I play Little League baseball. Please ban toxic pesticides on all the fields where I play Please support HB 5330.
Thank you.

Marty Ryczek HB 5330

To Whom It May Concern,

After several years and much money, the East Haddam school district FINALLY has fields at the HS that we can be proud of, not to mention safe to play on. By contrast, our MS athletic grounds are a waste land of weeds and ruts. While we all in education support keeping children safe, it is my opinion that this proposed bill may actually do more harm then good.

We do not support this action...Thank you.

Marty Ryczek

Leila Baroody HB 5330

Dear Public Health Committee Members,

For the benefit of CT families and their children, I hope you will support HB-5330 to ban lawn pesticides where children are vulnerable to potentially toxic exposures of such chemicals and combinations with other lawn treatments. We have made progress protecting kids at day care and school grounds through 8th grade. But don't our older kids and families deserve protection at high schools, parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and municipal greens? Lawn pesticides, as well as the unknown synergistic effects of combinations of lawn chemicals, can pose serious and heartbreaking long term impacts on our children.

Kindly support this important and timely legislation to protect Connecticut's children's health as they cannot vote on matters like this, and it is critical that we act now to protect them.

Thank you,
Leila Baroody
70 Race Track Rd.
Lakeville, CT

Information is the currency of Democracy.
~Thomas Jefferson~

Kathy Strom HB 5330

"Please support HB-5330 and SB-46. I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law prohibiting the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to these toxic chemicals? Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides."

*~Kathy Strom
Haddam, CT*

Andrew Riccio HB 5330

To Whom it May Concern,

I understand that you were looking for input from towns on the pesticide restrictions.

The town of East Haddam has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in building our athletic fields and because of the pesticide restrictions, we are not able to properly take care of them. Additionally, these restrictions have caused a lot of additional work and expense to maintain these fields and they are deteriorating more and more every year as a result.

The products which we are being prevented from using have been vetted by the EPA and the CT DEEP and are safe to use responsibly. The EPA is constantly reviewing these products and, if they discover that a product, after a period of time for whatever reason, is unsafe, they remove it from the market.

When the law went into effect, it was written to say that absolutely NO pesticides could be used on the fields and properties. This meant that any pesticide, no matter what its chemical makeup, no matter what it was being used for, no matter what its degree of toxicity could be used. It would have been better and more reasonable if the law allowed for a group of scientists, educators and administrators to review the most commonly used products and decide which are the safest and most effective for use.

East Haddam has had the UCONN agricultural group, local horticultural groups and several landscape companies look at our fields. We have spent thousands of dollars following different recommendations and at the end of the day we still have fields at our Middle and Elementary schools that are an embarrassment to our community.

School athletic fields that cannot yield the growth of sustainable grass become a safety issue as well. The inability of proper traction and a natural cushioned surface for young student athletes increases the percentage of possible physical injuries including concussions.

We all agree that there is nothing more important than the health and safety of the children of our community but do believe there are products on the market today that are vetted and could be used to help improve the quality of our grounds while maintaining the safety of our kids.

Thanks,

Andrew Riccio
7th Grade Social Studies Teacher
Athletic Coordinator
Boys Basketball Coach
860 873.5081 EXT 706

Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School
73 Clark Gates Road P O Box 363
Moodus, CT 06469
Fax 860 873.5086

East Haddam School District

Rosemarie Roast HB 5330

It is a vital baby-step that HB-5330 to ban toxic lawn pesticides where children can be exposed is supported.

*It's fine that Connecticut has a law prohibiting the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds through grade 8, yet other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and municipal greens (and *all* public land) be protected*

*Please support legislation to protect the health of Connecticut's children *and* all citizens wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn (and "farm") pesticides*

rosemarie roast

winsted, ct

see what I made today at <http://whatcrose.made.today.blogspot.com>

browse my humble creations at <http://walkwiththeroadskid.com> & <http://zibby.com/walkwiththeroadskid/>

"How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world" ~ William Shakespeare

Peter S. Montgomery HB 5330

While it is progressive that legislation addresses the use of various fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, etc. in play grounds, I would like to hear of House and NOFA efforts to address the increasing amounts of veterinary pharmaceutical suspended in manures used to fertilize crops sold as organic produce.

Peter S. Montgomery
Montgomery Gardens, LLC
45 Kent Road/CR 341
Warren, CT 06754
860-619-8028
petersgardens@optonline.net

Rich Gable HB 5330

Hello,

As the head baseball coach at Nathan Hale-Ray High School the past 15 years, I encourage you to vote **NO** for the Act Concerning Pesticides on School Grounds. In fact, myself and many others, would like to see the initial act repealed. Fields and grounds around the State are suffering.

Currently our middle school fields (soccer, baseball, softball and the grounds in general) are in a shambles. Grubs, moles/voles, ants and other pests have kept the soil from the proper nutrients to grow strong healthy grass. The fact is the only thing that sustains growth are weeds. Organic fertilizers and pest controls have not worked and are in most cases two or three times the cost. What grass we have is not strong enough to sustain the rigors of a sports season. It becomes a safety hazard for players. Balls take odd and inconsistent hops, the terrain doesn't have consistent traction for players to run, move laterally, and alter their paths during the flow of practice and games, and it doesn't have the proper cushion for when players fall or make an aggressive attempt

We are quite proud of the layout and design of the field complex of Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, but the fields themselves have a long way to go to come close to match the beautiful surroundings.

Our high school fields are heavily used, not only by the school's sports teams but the community at large. Currently regular maintenance of the field and grounds allows for the growth of thick green grass that is aesthetically pleasing and playable. The scheduled regular pest and weed control maintenance is entirely necessary to sustain operable fields for the long run. By the end of sports seasons fields still get worn, but are able to recover and rejuvenate for the next season. My fear, and I believe it is easily justified by how many middle and elementary school fields across the State have been ruined, is that over time the high school fields and grounds will go down the same path and become a safety hazard for student athletes and an eye sore.

Again I encourage you to vote **NO**

Sincerely,

Rich Gable
Math Teacher/Instructional Facilitator
Head Baseball Coach
Nathan Hale-Ray High School
(860)-873-5065

Robb & Carol Wright, HB 5330

Dear Persons,

Please assure our opportunity to use logical pesticides on our East Haddam athletic school fields. I appreciate the concern for the environment and well being of our children, but we also need playable non injury producing athletic fields

My wife and I are not supportive of the proposed ban.

Robb & Carol Wright

860-208-6046

Lisa Conroy HB 5330

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am writing to you to express my concerns regarding ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS.***

As a parent, I have watched our field conditions deteriorate dramatically here in East Haddam/Moodus since the pesticide ban was imposed. We need to find a balance between responsible use of pesticides and providing a safe environment for our kids to play. Without the use of pesticides and grub control in limited/responsible quantities our high school fields will turn into dirt/gravel pits like the ones at our elementary and middle school. The athletic fields at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School are virtually unusable ..and the ones at the East Haddam Elementary School are not far behind. Our kids are tripping over mounds of weeds, balls are bouncing haphazardly off these same weeds and our kids are falling on dirt versus a forgiving surface of grass. Ticks are in abundance and the uncontrolled clover and dandelions are drawing more bees. So much so, that an Arbor Day celebration at our elementary school was limited to the paved basketball court to protect attendees from getting bit/stung!

As an athletic trainer, the deteriorating field conditions concern me. Poor athletic field conditions lead to increased risk of abrasions/lacerations, concussions, facial/dental injuries, sprains and strains due to the various divots caused by skunks digging up grubs as well as the overgrowth of weeds in baseball/softball infields. The abundance of ticks and bees pose a potential increased risk in the transmission of Lyme Disease and allergic reactions to bee stings.

While I understand that this law was developed and passed with the best intentions, I don't think the ramifications of such laws were thought through. The organic methods suggested to treat our fields are not financially feasible nor have they been found to be effective. East Haddam has had the UCONN agricultural group, local horticultural groups and several landscape companies look at our fields. Despite spending thousands of dollars following their various recommendations, our fields are still an embarrassment to our community and a danger to our kids.

There is nothing more important than the health and safety of the children of our community, but I believe there are products on the market today that are vetted and could be used to help improve the quality of our grounds while maintaining the safety of our kids. We need to ensure that our kids continue to have safe, green spaces to play on and this law is not the answer. I hope you can assist in ensuring that the proposed extension of the current pesticide ban to all municipal property *does not pass*.

Sincerely,

Lisa Conroy

Lisa L. Conroy, ATC, LAT
Athletic Trainer
Nathan Hale-Ray High School
10 Westwood Drive
Moodus, CT 06469
(860) 873-2073

STEVE HERZOG HB 5330

MY NAME IS STEVE HERZOG AND I WORKED AT THE YALE UNIVERSITY GOLF COURSE FOR THIRTEEN YEARS WHERE I WAS EXPOSED TO NUMEROUS PESTICIDES MY OCCUPATIONAL DOCTOR SAID WITH REASONABLE MEDICAL CERTAINTY I GOT MY NONHODGKINS LYMPHOMA FROM MY EXPOSURE TO PESTICIDES AT THE YALE UNIVERSITY GOLF COURSE. YOU CAN READ MORE OF WHAT HAPPENED TO ME BY GOOGLING-POISONED GOLF YALE BEYOND PESTICIDES-(A GROUNDSKEEPER SPEAKS OUT ON CONTAMINATION AND POISONING AT THE YALE UNIVERSITY GOLF COURSE) IF THIS CAN HAPPENT TO ME AT ONE OF THE FINEST EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE WORLD IT CAN HAPPEN AT PLAYGROUNDS, BALL FIELDS. GOLF COURSES ANYWHERE! I HOPE MY NIGHTMARE EXPERIENCE AT THE YALE UNIVERSITY GOLF COURSE WILL GET YOU TO SEE YOU MUST PASS HB-5330 FOR OUR CHILDREN AND NOT PUT THE INTERESTS OF THE PESTICIDE INDUSTRY, THE GOLF INDUSTRY AND-ALL THE OTHERS- BEFORE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN.

SINCERLY,

STEVE HERZOG

18 YEAR NONHODGKINS LYMPHOMA SURVIVOR -LET MY FEEL MY SUFFERING WAS FOR SOMETHING GOOD!

Roberta Silbert, MPH
155 White Birch Drive, Guilford CT 06437
203 453- 5966

March 14, 2014

Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee,

Re HB 5330 An Act Concerning The Application Of Pesticides At Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields And Municipal Greens

I am submitting testimony in support of HB 5330 because I consider the health of our children and the health of our environment to be critical to the great State of Connecticut.

When tragedy strikes we pay attention. We are glued to our electronic devices in disbelief. Then there are the less public tragedies like a mother taking her young child with leukemia to the hospital for chemotherapy, the high school athlete about to start college just diagnosed with lymphoma, a baby born with birth defects, or the parents helping their child adjust to life with severe asthma. I have worked in the health care field and I know of the suffering that illness and disease can cause.

While we all try to keep our children safe they are being involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals like pesticides that can harm them. PESTICIDES KILL LIVING THINGS LIKE PLANTS AND INSECTS. OUR CHILDREN ARE ALSO LIVING THINGS. If children fell ill or fell dead onto the grass of a pesticide maintained athletic field after a game of soccer or your dog died right after walking on a pesticide sprayed town green people would be paying a lot of attention AND there would be a lot of press coverage. But illness from these toxins is a less public and less publicized tragedy. And the time from exposure to diagnosis of illness can be as long 20 years.

This much is clear – CHILDREN AND PESTICIDES DON'T MIX. And as with many things there is the good, the bad and the ugly.

First the good news. Connecticut legislators by an overwhelming majority passed landmark legislation to protect children by a ban on lawn pesticides in public and private schools from day care to through grade 8. Now hundreds of thousands of children are protected from involuntary exposure on school grounds.

Now the bad news. Most parents do not even know that this law exists because they are not paying attention to the causes of the everyday tragedies that are affecting others people's children. The bad news is that the pro-pesticide interests have blocked the ban being extended to other places where children play. We need the ban extended to ALL other places where our children play. It makes no sense to protect children's health on school grounds up to 8th grade and expose them in parks, playgrounds, on municipal fields, high school fields, and on town greens. I can tell you this: when illness and disease strike it doesn't care what grade you are in, or your age, or your economic status.

The ugly news is that the billion dollar pesticide industry wants to protect their market share on the backs of our children and our environment. Pro-pesticide

interests claim that non-toxic turf care does not work and are trying to reverse the ban and permit the use of all their toxic pesticides. They do this under the guise of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that sounds nice but really means business as usual. IPM is a subterfuge to allow the full use of toxic lawn pesticides. IPM is flawed and puts our children at risk. The ban is stricter and protects children from toxic pesticide exposure. A ban also would protect the applicators who themselves are at risk for exposure and harm. These interests are also trying to block any further expansion of the bill with a variety of tactics. The influence of the pesticide industry and their lobbyists has affected the attitudes of a long line of people - from professional organizations, to facility managers, to athletic directors, to state organizations like CCM, to municipal officials and to the applicators themselves.

No toxic pesticide should be used where children play. There are gaps in testing, pesticides are not really tested for long term toxicity considering the time from exposure to diagnosis of disease can be up to 20 years. Pesticides are not tested in combination and in the formulations that they are actually used. These formulations can be more toxic than the active ingredient alone. On top of this, the testing is done by the chemical companies who manufacture the pesticides - the fox is guarding the chicken coop.

Non-toxic care of fields works well when done properly. Success is due to know how. Lots of workshops and classes have been offered, but more importantly success is an attitude to want to protect the health of the kids in the community they serve. In a town that has gone beyond the current law and has all their fields and parks under non-toxic care, the Director of Parks has said, "when I hear that another child in my town gets cancer I want to know it is not because of something I sprayed on my fields." If elected municipal officials really care about the health of children in their town and want playable fields, they should find someone who actually does non-toxic care successfully and not use those who complain it can't be done.

Pro-pesticide interests will complain to you about their weeds and their deteriorating turf. They talk about grass and I hear children crying. THIS IS NOT ABOUT GRASS. IT IS ABOUT CHILDREN WITH CANCER, CHILDREN WITH LYMPHOMA, CHILDREN WITH LEUKEMIA, CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA, CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DELAYS, CHILDREN WITH CHEMICAL SENSITIVITIES AND ALLERGIES. CHILDREN BORN WITH BIRTH DEFECTS. IT IS ABOUT OUR PETS DYING FROM EXPOSURE TO GRASS TREATED WITH PESTICIDES IT IS ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT, THE AIR WE BREATHE, THE WATER WE DRINK, AND THE FOOD WE EAT. IT IS ABOUT ALL OF US AND OUR LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Pro-pesticide interests will tell you about costs (which actually will be less once they restore the health of the soil) When they mention costs I of think of the personal costs of illness, the societal costs, the health care costs and the moral costs. What kind of society do we live in where money for corporations that manufacture toxic chemicals is valued over the health of our children? Don't we have an obligation, a moral obligation, to our children and future generations to make sure we did all we could to ensure a toxic free legacy? Roberta Silbert

Regina Porto HB 5330

Please stop the slow poisoning of our children! We must stop using toxic chemicals in public parks and places that children play, hike, etc. It should be a priority and everyone that has or knows children should not want them exposed to unnecessary poisons. That would mean all of us, right? Please work to get this done!

Thank you!

Regina Porto

45 Bradley Avenue

East Haven, CT 06512

Aimee Petras HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Aimee Petras
230 Quaker Lane South
West Hartford, CT 06119

virginia Schneider HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

virginia schneider
25 Cassway Road
woodbridge, CT 06525

Maria Bertrand-Severi HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Maria Bertrand-Severi
119 Dartmouth Street
Torrington, CT 06790

Emily Cormier HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Emily Cormier
50 Dessa Dr
Hamden, CT 06517

Joshua Davidson HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Joshua Davidson
74 Basswood Rd
Farmington, CT 06032

Family Johnson HB 5330

We would like to ask not to spray any pesticide's. On our playground's, park's, schools etc. Research has been shown that pesticides will harm,our children's health,. We adults have great responsibility's to provide safety not just in our foods,but also for earth. In this time we need to see each other as important enough, that we choose health over money Children should be able to stick handfull of dirt in their mouth without going to the hospital having their stomach pumped out because our earth is becoming toxic waste, please with all the love in my heart for all the children ,baby's and pregnant mothers iam asking to start thinking with the heart not with the wallet. Please don't uuse any pesticides on our public places.

God bless America

Sincerely

Family Johnson

295 south road

Groton CT

860 445 4444

Testimony of
Environment and Human Health, Inc.

By
Nancy Alderman, President

Bill 5330

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT PARKS,
PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS.***

**Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and Members of the Public Health
Committee, Good morning,**

My name is Nancy Alderman. I am the President of Environment and Human Health, Inc., a Connecticut non-profit organization comprised of 11 members who are physicians and public health professionals.

Environment and Human Health, Inc. is in support of Bill 5330

Parks and playgrounds are places where small children and pets play. The smaller the body size and weight the greater the level of toxic exposures. Therefore these places should be pesticide free.

Pesticides that are used on grounds include insecticides, herbicides and fungicides.

All of these pesticides contain inert ingredients – which are never divulged to the public – as industry declares them “trade secrets.” A new study shows that the “Inert” ingredients make all pesticides more dangerous to cells than the current safety testing has revealed.

When pesticides are tested for safety, they are only tested for their “active” ingredients. The “inert” ingredients are added AFTER the testing.

This new study suggests that these “inert” additives can make pesticides more dangerous to cells than current safety testing reveals.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/2014/Feb/pesticides-are-more-dangerous-than-testing-of-active-ingredient-alone-reveals/>

To quote from the study, “The study suggests that inert ingredients in pesticides can magnify the effects of active ingredients, sometimes as much as 1,000-fold. Eight commercial products out of nine tested were hundreds of times more toxic than their active ingredient alone.”

With this new information – how can we let small children and pets play on park grounds that have been treated with pesticides that we actually have no idea how toxic they actually are.

Environment and Human Health, Inc. supports this Bill and thanks you for your consideration.

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
March 2013

March 13, 2014

Public Health Committee

Dear Public Health Committee,

I strongly urge you to support HB-5330, which bans the use of pesticides wherever children can be exposed.

I know that you have heard a lot of testimony against HB-5330. One of the major arguments that you have heard is that the chemicals used in these pesticides are safe. That argument is, in fact, the weakest of all. We do not know that these chemicals are safe. They have not been properly and thoroughly tested. The tests that are performed on them are conducted by researchers hired by the chemical companies themselves. Only limited tests are performed, and those are generally for carcinogenicity. These chemicals are registered by the EPA, but that does not mean that the EPA considers them safe. Out of the 80,000 + chemicals currently in use in the US, the EPA has tested only 200, and out of those 200, the EPA has regulated the use of only 5.

The laws that are in place regarding product safety—including the use of chemicals—address immediate, mortal harm. These laws do not take into consideration effects that will result in 10, 20, 30 years down the line. We need HB-5330 to make the public realize how harmful these chemicals can be (and indeed, are). People assume that because they can buy Round-Up, etc., off the shelf that they are therefore safe. These products contain many of the same ingredients or ingredients that are equally harmful. People typically believe that the government would not allow products that would harm them. They don't know and they don't understand the dangers. Laws regulating the use of pesticides would heighten their awareness.

There is indeed proof that the chemicals used in products do harm wildlife. Anything containing the suffix "icide" is one clue: anything that contains "icide" kills, and not just the intended target. "Icides" have unintended consequences; they kill other things as well. What affects one part of the environment has an effect on other parts of the environment. We must be mindful of that. Products which claim to kill their target do not just kill their target; they **always** result in collateral damage. Note the military language here; citizens must understand what these kinds of chemicals are truly about: death and killing.

We cannot continue to treat our environment as a giant testing lab, and await the results. This kind of approach leads to untold damage, and above all, harm to our children and future generations. We must show greater respect, care, and consideration for our children, for adults, for animals, and for the earth.

I am very happy to hear that HB-5330 has been proposed; this is a step forward. I would be very happy to talk with about my concern (indeed, I have left messages with my representatives, and with you); you may call me at any time at 203-387-1172. I urge you with all my heart and mind to pass HB-5330 and ban toxic lawn pesticides where children can be exposed.

Thank you for your attention to this very serious and important matter.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Dubino
80 Cleveland Rd.
New Haven, CT 06515
203-387-1172

Rich Annino HB 5330
Westbrook Recreation Director

We must start using weed control around our schools and ball fields. Since this law has gone into effect, we have seen the terrible affects in the appearance of our school grounds. Weeds growing everywhere and coming back stronger each time they are cut. Our fields have gone from being pristine to being unsafe to use. Baselines covered by grass and sidewalks with weeds growing everywhere. Properly administered chemicals are safe for children and the results are beneficial to everyone. Don't we want our students able to play in a safe environment on safe surfaces?

Thank you for your time,

Rich Annino

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Louis St John
54 Deer Run Rd.
Durham, CT 06422

**Testimony in Favor of HB-5330
Submitted on March 12, 2014**

My name is Christine O'Day and I am a resident of Wilton, CT. I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB-5330.

I am very concerned about children and pets in Connecticut being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides. While I'm pleased that Connecticut has led the way with legislation protecting others from harm by banning the use of these toxic pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8, it's shocking to me that these toxic chemicals are still used at parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and municipal greens in our state. There are multiple studies showing the harmful effects these chemicals have on human health and their link to asthma, autism, cancer, leukemia and other diseases. As children and pets are most susceptible to the harmful effects of these chemicals due to their developing immune systems, their small size and their proximity to the ground, they should not be exposed to these toxins where they are going for recreation. Kids and pets are playing on these fields every single day and unknowingly being exposed to these harmful chemicals. I equate this situation with smoking ..when we finally discovered how bad smoking was for smokers AND the people around the smokers, we finally created legislation to ban smoking in public places all over the country. Shouldn't this be the same case for toxic lawn pesticides?

I hope you will vote in favor of HB-5330. Thank you

Christine O'Day
9 Riding Club Road
Wilton, CT
(203) 644-7654
christine@christineoday.com

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Humphrey
31 Stillman Ave
Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Karen Gallagher HB 5330

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play.

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Karen Gallagher
41 Clark Ave
North Haven, CT 06473



Farmington River Watershed Association, Inc.
749 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070
(860) 658-4442 Fax (860) 651-7519 www.frwa.org

March 13, 2014

Testimony from the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) regarding HB 5330,
AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS
AND MUNICIPAL GREENS

Sen. Terry Gerratana, Rep. Susan Johnson, co-chairs; and Members of the Committee on Public Health
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

The Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA) supports HB 5330. FRWA is a non-profit citizens' group whose mission is to preserve, protect, and restore the Farmington River and its watershed. As a river protection organization, we are concerned over toxic runoff to our surface waters, including pesticide runoff. We actively promote pesticide-free lawns; our educational outreach program includes presentations and other information about the hazards of pesticide use in and around the home, and tips for controlling pests without commercial toxic chemicals.

There are multiple reasons to avoid pesticide use except where it is absolutely necessary and other measures will not suffice. The pesticides themselves are toxic to organisms other than the pest that is targeted. As a consequence, the pesticide application disrupts entire communities of species, many of which have beneficial functions. Furthermore, the toxicity of these compounds is apparently underestimated; recent studies point out that their toxicity is tested in the absence of the other ingredients that are present in the formulations that are sold to users. In the presence of these other ingredients, their toxicity is considerably higher. In addition, the toxicity of these compounds in combination with other pesticides may not be taken into consideration when estimating the hazards they pose to public health or natural systems.

One of our special concerns as a watershed association is the volume of unnecessarily applied pesticide that washes off lawns, athletic fields, park grounds, and other areas during rainstorms. Contaminated stormwater runoff enters our streams and rivers, where it exposes aquatic animals and recreational users of the river to whatever was applied on land.

We also recognize the hazards that these substances present to the children that play on lawns, high school athletic fields, town parks, or other recreational areas. We are familiar with the subtle, complex, and long-delayed effects these toxins can have. Since both children and their natural environments are harmed by unnecessary pesticide use, since alternatives to pesticide application exist, and since the bill allows for emergency applications in order to address real public health threats, we support this bill.

Respectfully submitted,


Eileen Fielding
Executive Director



To The Chairmen of the Public Health Committee:

Sen. Terry Gerratana and Rep. Susan Johnson

And to the Honorable Members of the Committee

**RE: HB 5330 AAC The Application Of Pesticides At Parks, Playgrounds,
Athletic Fields And Municipal Greens**

Date: March 14 Public Hearing

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship

Rivers Alliance writes in strong support of HB 5530. I am attaching to these remarks the American Academy of Pediatrics 2012 Technical Report *Pesticide Exposure in Children*. The report is chilling. You will see in the Abstract that the doctors have found associations between pesticide use and children's cancers and neurodevelopmental disorders. Moreover, they state that additional data suggests an association between parental pesticide use and adverse birth outcomes. It concludes: "Children's exposure to pesticides should be limited as much as possible."

There are already pesticides in *all* the nation's rivers and streams (US Geological Survey, 2006). Pesticide use is a major contributor to the die-off of freshwater species, which lead in the mass extinction of species now underway in North America and around the world.

This science and even the labels on pesticide products make it clear that the substances are dangerous. The American Academy of Pediatrics makes it clear they are dangerous to children. Please pass this legislation.

Thank you for your care to protect children.

Margaret Miner

Executive Director

rivers@riversalliance.org 203-788-5161 (mobile)

Litchfield CT 06759

**CITIZENS
CAMPAIGN**
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



www.citizenscampaign.org

- 225A Main Street • Farmingdale, NY 11735
516-390-7150
- 188 East Post Road, Suite #202 • White Plains, NY 10601
914-358-9840
- 744 Broadway • Albany NY 12207
518-772-1862
- 733 Delaware Road, Box 140 • Buffalo NY 14223
716 831 3206
- PO Box 661 • Syracuse, NY 13206
315-472 1339
- 2404 Whitney Avenue 2nd Floor • Hamden CT 06518
203-821-7050

Empowering Communities. Advocating Solutions.

**Testimony in Support of HB 5330
Testimony by Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Louis W. Burch, Program Coordinator**

**March 14, 2014
Hartford, CT**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, distinguished members of the CGA Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Louis Burch, program coordinator for Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE). Supported by over 80,000 members in Connecticut and New York State, CCE works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment. CCE would like to offer the following testimony in support of HB 5330:

HB 5330- AAC The application of pesticides to parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and municipal greens

CCE strongly supports this legislation, and applauds the Public Health Committee for its efforts to prohibit the use of dangerous chemical pesticides on all municipal parks and playing fields in Connecticut. It is well documented that exposure to pesticides increases a child's risk of developing a range of neurological, respiratory and endocrine disorders. Long-term exposure to pesticides has also been linked to a variety of cancers, including non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Connecticut established itself as a nationwide leader on this critical issue, by passing a prohibition on the use of dangerous aesthetic pesticides on elementary school playing fields in 2005.

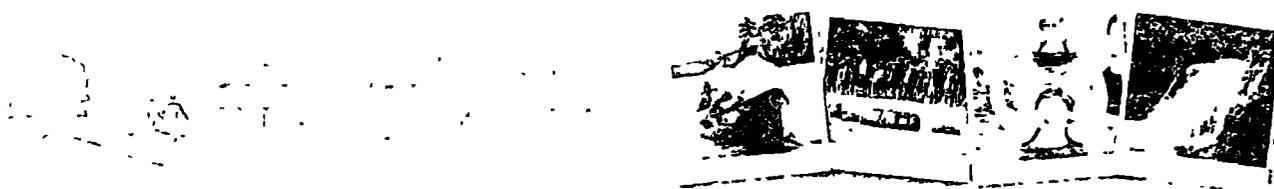
The K-6 pesticide ban was expanded in 2007 to include middle schools, and again in 2009 to include day care facilities. The gradual expansion of this policy demonstrates a growing body of knowledge among the health sciences community and the CT General Assembly around this serious children's health issue. Since these laws have been implemented, several communities throughout the state have successfully eliminated the use of toxic pesticides on school playing fields, and a number have gone above and beyond what is prescribed by the law by prohibiting toxic pesticides on all public green spaces and playing fields.

While the ban on pesticides for K-8 schools was an important first step, it fails to protect students on public parks and playing fields, where children's exposure rates are high. Heavy physical

activities such as sports and exercise lead to heavy breathing, which can also increase a young person's risk of inhaling toxic pesticides.

Effective and affordable alternatives to pesticides do exist and are widely available. There is clear science showing that pests and weeds can not only be managed successfully with readily available and affordable non-toxic alternatives, but that towns and school districts that eliminate the use of chemical pesticides can also benefit from long-term financial savings. **Citizens Campaign for the Environment strongly supports expanding existing state law to prohibit the use of toxic pesticides on public parks and playing fields in Connecticut, and respectfully urges this committee to pass this important legislation as soon as possible.**

On behalf of our members in Connecticut, we appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and look forward to working with you on this important issue.



**Testimony of The Connecticut Recreation & Parks Association, Inc.
Before the Public Health Committee
March 14, 2014**

**Testimony in Opposition to
HB 5330 An Act Concerning The Application of
Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields, & Municipal Greens**

Good morning. My name is Greg Foran. I am a member of the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc. (CRPA), and also the Parks Superintendent and Tree Warden for the Town of Glastonbury. CRPA represents about 600 individual professionals from municipal, nonprofit and private, park, recreation & camp organizations, as well as 128 of the 169 municipal park and recreation departments in Connecticut.

Also, please note that we are joined in our testimony today, by the Connecticut Association of Schools / Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CAS/CIAC) which consists of more than 1,000 public and parochial elementary, middle and high schools in addition to charter, magnet and technical schools in Connecticut. CIAC is the portion of the organization which regulates interscholastic athletics.

CRPA must oppose HB 5330. The bill neither protects the public nor preserves our fields and recreation areas. This bill as written would eliminate the use of a DEEP approved list of non-toxic pesticides, and expand the prohibition on using even low toxicity products. HB 5330 has little basis in science and ignores what CRPA members have told us about the problems with the current ban on K-8 fields in Connecticut. Our members, who are the trained experts in maintaining these fields and areas, know what works and what doesn't. And it should not be overlooked, that our members do not profit from the sale of any such product, whether it be organic or synthetic. Quite frankly, it is ridiculous to argue that our members don't know what they are doing and are unfamiliar with safe and effective maintenance best practices.

Parks and recreation departments throughout Connecticut are already experiencing difficulty in maintaining the quality of their grounds and fields. For Example, South Windsor has been faced with rapidly declining fields and large expenses in attempts to rehabilitate them. The increased presence of grubs in fields has attracted rodents, which literally tear up turf, leaving dangerous holes and low spots, increasing the risk of player injury. Species, such as crabgrass, invade and the soil in turn hardens. The soil does not always respond to aeration, which also causes an increased risk of injury to young athletes. Additionally, weed infested sidewalks and parking lots have to be treated manually and/or mechanically which is labor intensive, costly, causes reduced life of the pavement and concrete and has extremely short-lived results.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a highly regulated process and uses pesticides only as a last resort. IPM is universally accepted as the Best Management Practice (BMP) of the industry. IPM calls for the prudent use of EPA and DEEP regulated pesticides by trained and licensed individuals when non-chemical measures have

been unable to eradicate the problem. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recommended IPM as a safe and effective method of pest control.

Expanding the ban on IPM presents clear dangers to the public and precludes us from dealing with more than just grubs. We must address the health hazards from numerous other invasives and pests, not the least of which is poison ivy. The emergency application provisions in the event of a total ban on IPM are cumbersome and ineffective at best when it comes to protecting the public.

Consider the cost of taking a child to the doctor to put them on steroids for their reaction to poison ivy and the possible side effects. How many extreme reactions and subsequent cases of blood poisoning will it take before a poison ivy emergency can be declared? It would be far safer to allow for the treatment of an infestation with a spot spray of Roundup, when the plants first emerge.

Also consider the long term environmental damage that will be caused by Emerald Ash Borer to ash trees, because we cannot use low toxicity products to control them should the ban on IPM be expanded. IPM allows treatment when it serves the greater good.

Our members tell us that, across the state, K-8 fields subject to the ban are in significantly poorer condition than high school fields where the use of IPM is permitted in the same towns. Moreover, recent case studies in the State of Connecticut validate that athletic fields maintained organically do not hold up nearly as well to heavy utilization and require more recovery time than fields maintained under an IPM plan.

Remember that IPM is designed to reduce the use of toxic substances whether they are organic or synthetic and contrast this with the application of unregulated organic substances, which in many cases are toxic.

Finally, do not ignore that there is a direct scientific correlation between the health and thickness of the turf on an athletic field and the number of injuries that occur to children on those fields. Crabgrass, clover and weeds die out quickly leaving bare or thin turf and harder playing surfaces. A healthy field is not just an aesthetic wish. It is a safer playing area.

Please allow us to safely maintain all school grounds, as you currently allow us to do with our town halls, town centers, and public parks through safe regulated IPM practices. The United States EPA has recommended IPM as a safe and effective method of pest control. The diligent use of pesticides with a balance of natural techniques under an IPM plan in K-12 schools, both public and private is a reasonable approach.

CRPA supports an education and science based approach to field and ground maintenance. Therefore, we urge the rejection of HB 5330. Rejection of HB 5330 is necessary to protect our children, our playing areas and the environment.

This completes my testimony. Thank you for your attention.

Gregory A. Foran

Member, CT Recreation and Parks Association, Inc.

Parks Superintendent & Tree Warden

Town of Glastonbury

2155 Main Street

Glastonbury, CT 06033

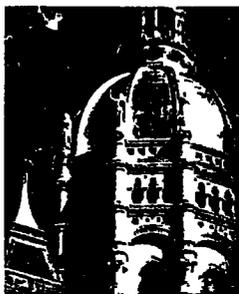
860 652.7686

gergory_foran@glastonbury-ct.gov



FOLLOW US ON





CCM 2014 Testimony

500 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-6314

Your source for local government management information www.ccm-ct.org

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

March 14, 2014

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 5330 "An Act Concerning The Application Of Pesticides At Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields And Municipal Greens"

CCM opposes HB 5330

HB 5330 would expand a costly unfunded mandate on towns and cities. The bill would exacerbate the current problem of addressing pest populations by prohibiting the use of pesticides on high school fields, parks, playgrounds and municipal greens. Towns and cities continue to struggle to maintain safe playing fields for our children at the K-8 level, and HB 5330 would simply extend those same problems and costs to high school fields.

Since the passage of the ban on pesticide use on K-8 school grounds, towns and cities across the state have been faced with rapidly deteriorating fields and large expenses in attempts to rehabilitate them.

- The increased presence of grubs in fields has attracted rodents, which burrow through the soil creating dangerous tunnels that cave in as players run across them increasing the risk of player injury.
- Species such as crabgrass have begun to take over the soil, causing it to harden, not respond to aeration, increasing soil density which increases the risk of concussions.

Additionally, HB 5330 would increase costs in both labor and materials, with little hope that the fields can be properly maintained.

- In the Town of Hebron, the cost of maintaining an elementary school field in comparison to a municipal field is almost double, \$17,310 per year vs. \$10,212 per year, and despite the investment of significant labor and resources, the quality of the field is below that of the municipal field maintained through the use of an Integrated Pest Management plan (IPM).

In November 2012, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its updated strategic plan for implementing school IPM programs citing, "full implementation of Integrated Pest Management is cost effective, reduces exposure to pests and pesticides, and reduces pesticide use and pest complaints." Connecticut's restrictions have continued to be in place for several years now, even though EPA has continued to identify IPM as "a safer, and usually less costly option for effective pest management in the school community," which "employs commonsense strategies to reduce sources of food, water and shelter for pests in your school buildings and grounds," further taking "advantage of all pest management strategies, including judicious careful use of pesticides when necessary."

The bill attempts to provide some relief to municipalities struggling to maintain safe fields, by allowing the use of certain "organic" grub combating treatments, and pesticides that do not have a product label of "caution", "warning", or "danger"

indication According to experts in the field, there is only one product that would fit this narrow allowance and have any effectiveness in our climate – Acelepryn.

This would mean that HB 5330 would actively promote the product of one manufacturer. Field and turf maintenance personnel have stated that you cannot utilize the same product over and over, just as doctors do not use the same flu vaccine year in and year out and over time the “cure” loses its effectiveness. Rather, you must rotate the product used in order to maintain its effectiveness.

The bill, as drafted, would provide limited relief to groundskeepers for a few seasons, and ensure that this issue will be back before the Legislature in a few years when towns and cities seek permission to use Acelepryn 2.0

WHAT IS NEEDED? A BALANCED COLLABORATION TO DEVELOP STATE POLICY

It is important to note that municipal officials are second-to-none in ensuring the safety and health of children Not only are municipal officials parents, but they have a fiduciary duty to protect and defend the public’s interest.

Because of this responsibility, and the continued debate as to whom has the best and right information about these products, CCM supports the creation of a balanced Advisory Council to thoroughly examine and vet the facts surrounding field management and provide recommendations as to how specific synthetic and organic pesticides are reviewed and approved for use.

The Municipal Opportunities for Regional Efficiencies (MORE) Mandates working group, recently adopted recommendations to:

1. Utilize the Pesticide Advisory Council, as constituted in CGS Section 22a-65(d) to (a) review all new pesticides on a continuing basis for safety and effectiveness and (b) report their findings to the Commissioner of DEEP for consideration in adopting regulations.
2. Require DEEP, in consultation with the Pesticide Advisory Council, create, publish, and regularly update a set of best practices, including a review of the Massachusetts IPM monitoring website (www.mass.gov), for use by municipalities regarding the safe and effective use of both synthetic and organic pesticides

CCM stresses the need for such an entity as the proposed Pesticide Advisory Council to be comprised of individuals representing all facets of the issue and structured in a manner that no one side can walk away citing the results were biased. This will be a hard goal to achieve, but with careful thought and consideration it can be accomplished This council would remove the politics from the issue, and work to set policy and regulations based on the most current science regarding the safety and effectiveness of pesticides.

CCM urges that HB 5330 be rejected. CCM urges the Committee to establish a Pesticide Advisory Council, as recommended by the MORE Mandates Working Group, to establish a statewide best practices policy for the use and approval of pesticides in order to maintain safe and healthy school grounds and playing fields.

□ □ □ □ □

If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Senior Legislative Associate for CCM, at rcollins@ccm-ct.org or (860) 707-6446.



BEYOND PESTICIDES

701 E Street, SE ■ Washington DC 20003
 202-543-5450 phone ■ 202-543-4791 fax
 info@beyondpesticides.org ■ www.beyondpesticides.org

Statement of
 Drew Toher, Public Education Associate,
 Beyond Pesticides

BEFORE

The Connecticut State Legislature Public Health Committee

REGARDING

H.B. 5330: AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS,
 ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS

March 13, 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Public Health Committee. I am Drew Toher, the Public Education Associate at Beyond Pesticides, a national, grassroots membership organization that represents community-based groups and a range of people seeking to improve protections from pesticides and promote alternative pest management strategies that reduce or eliminate a reliance on toxic pesticides. Our membership includes Connecticut residents and spans the 50 states and groups around the world.

Beyond Pesticides supports the proposed bill's intent to extend Connecticut's robust pesticide protections to parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and municipal greens. The science on the hazards of pesticide use to children reveals the importance of this bill, especially given the availability of effective alternative turf management practices

I. The Health Effects of Pesticides

A landmark policy statement issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics in December 2012 stated, "Children encounter pesticides daily and have unique susceptibilities to their potential toxicity... Recognizing and reducing problematic exposures will require attention to current inadequacies in medical training, public health tracking, and regulatory action on pesticides."¹

Children are particularly vulnerable to pesticides because they take in more of a chemical relative to their body weight and have developing organ systems less able to detoxify hazardous chemicals. Studies show that children exposed to pesticides suffer elevated rates of

¹ American Academy of Pediatrics. 2012 "Pesticide Exposure in Children" *Pediatrics*.
[http //pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2012/11/21/peds.2012-2757 full pdf+html](http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2012/11/21/peds.2012-2757.full.pdf+html)

leukemia, brain cancer, soft tissue sarcoma, and non-Hodgkin lymphoma,^{2,3} in addition to numerous other adverse health endpoints. This issue is discussed in additional detail in Beyond Pesticides' factsheet *Children and Pesticides Don't Mix* (see Addendum A),⁴ which cites peer-reviewed scientific literature on the health effects of pesticides to kids. Below is detailed information on the wide-ranging health effects of the top two most commonly used active pesticide ingredients in both the residential and commercial sector.

2,4-D: #1 Most Commonly Used Pesticide Active Ingredient⁵

2,4-D is one of the most widely used herbicides for the control of broadleaf weeds for commercial agriculture and residential landscapes in the United States. According to EPA's 2005 Registration Eligibility Decision for the chemical, each year 16 million pounds are used on non-agricultural settings, such as golf courses, playing fields, rights-of-ways and residential lawns.⁶

Contamination

- Research documents that once tracked indoors from lawns, 2,4-D can stay indoors (on carpets) for up to a year.⁷
- A 2003 study found 63% of houses in the U.S. contained traces of 2,4-D.⁸
- Its heavy use on a wide range of agricultural crops and on turf grass, as well as its high ability to leach through soil has lead 2,4-D to be one of the most frequently detected herbicides in surface and groundwater.⁹
- One study found that dogs living in and around residences with 2,4-D treated lawns absorb measurable amounts of the herbicide for several days after application. Urine concentrations were higher and persisted longer than previous reports.¹⁰

² Ma, X et al. 2002 "Critical Windows of Exposure to Household Pesticides and Risks of Childhood Leukemia " *EHP* 110(9). 955-960 , Zahm, S , et al. 1998 "Pesticides and Childhood Cancer " *EHP* 106(Supp 3) 893-908

³ Buckley, J D., et al. 2000 "Pesticide exposures in children with non-Hodgkin lymphoma." *Cancer* 89 (11) 2315-232

⁴ Beyond Pesticides, *Children and Pesticides Don't Mix*,
http://www.beyondpesticides.org/lawn/factsheets/Pesticide_children_donmix.pdf

⁵ Environmental Protection Agency 2012 "Pesticide Industry Sales and Usage "
http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/pestsales/07pestsales/usage2007_3.htm#3_7

⁶ Environmental Protection Agency 2005. "Reregistration Eligibility Decision for 2,4-D "
http://www.epa.gov/opprrd1/REDs/24d_red.pdf

⁷ Nishioka MG, Burkholder HM, Brinkman MC, Gordon SM 1996 "Measuring lawn transport of lawn applied herbicide acids from turf to home. Correlation of dislodgeable 2,4-D turf residues with carpets dust and carpet surface residues " *Environmental Sci and Tech* 30:3313-3320

⁸ Rudel, Ruthann, et al. 2003 "Phthalates, Alkylphenols, Pesticides, Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers, and Other Endocrine-Disrupting Compounds in Indoor Air and Dust " *Environmental Science and Technology* 37(20) 4543-4553

⁹ Cox, C. 2005 "2,4-D Herbicide Factsheet " *Journal of Pesticide Reform* 25(4) 10-15.

¹⁰ Reynolds, P M , Reif, J S , Ramsdell, H.S , and Tessari, J D 1994 Canine exposure to herbicide-treated lawns and urinary excretion of 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention* 3, 233-237.

Cancer in Humans and Pets

- Scientific studies point to 2,4-D's association with cancer, particularly non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.^{11,12}
- Several studies have found an association with 2,4-D exposure with canine malignant lymphoma.^{13,14, 15}

Endocrine Disruption and Reproductive Effects

- A study by Garry et al. found a direct correlation of urinary levels of 2,4-D with serum levels of luteinizing hormone (LH) and high testosterone levels at the time of highest exposure to 2,4-D, suggesting a direct effect on hormonal levels by the herbicide.¹⁶ LH, produced by the pituitary gland, stimulates the production of testosterone and helps regulate the menstrual cycle and ovulation. Fluctuations in these hormones may affect human fertility.
- Research published in 2002 revealed that a combination of the herbicides 2,4-D, mecoprop, and dicamba have the potential to impact a mother's ability to successfully reproduce.¹⁷

Glyphosate: #2 Most Commonly Used Pesticide Active Ingredient¹⁸

Since glyphosate's registration with EPA in 1974, its popularity has increased dramatically along with erroneous claims that it is of low toxicity. Studies have investigated glyphosate and reported that it is associated with increased risk of genetic damage, neurological impacts, endocrine disruption and certain cancers.

Certain Cancers: non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, Leukemia, and Multiple Myeloma

- Glyphosate has been suggestively associated with an increased risk of multiple

¹¹ Lennart Hardell, and Eriksson, M 1999 "A case-control study of non-Hodgkin lymphoma and exposure to pesticides." *Cancer* 85, 1353-1360

¹² Ibrahim, M A , Bond, G G., Burke, T A , et al. 1991 "Weight of the evidence on the human carcinogenicity of 2,4-D". *Environmental Health Perspectives* 96, 213-222

¹³ Hayes, H M , Tarone, R E , Cantor, K P , Jessen, C R , McCurnin, D M , and Richardson, R C. 1991 "Case-Control Study of Canine Malignant Lymphoma Positive Association With Dog Owner's Use of 2, 4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid Herbicides." *J. National Cancer Institute*, 83.17pp 1226-1231.

¹⁴ Hayes, H.M , Tarone, R E , and Cantor, K P. 1995 "On the Association between Canine Malignant Lymphoma and Opportunity for Exposure to 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid " *Environmental Research* 70, 119-125.

¹⁵ INCHEM Environmental Health Criteria For 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid World Health Organization, Geneva

¹⁶ Garry, V F , Tarone, R E , Kirsch, I R , Abdallah, J.M , Lombardi, D P , Long, L K , Burroughs, B L , Barr, D B , and Kesner, J S. 2001

¹⁷ Maria Fernanda Cavieres et al 2002 "Developmental Toxicity of a Commercial Herbicide mixture in mice Effects on Embryo Implantation and litter size " *Environmental Health Perspectives*. 110(11) 1081-1085

¹⁸ Environmental Protection Agency. 2012. "Pesticide Industry Sales and Usage " http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/pestsales/07pestsales/usage2007_3.htm#3_7

myeloma, according to an Agricultural Health Study published in 2005.¹⁹

- One study found that people exposed to glyphosate are 2.7 times more likely to contract non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL).²⁰
- In 2002, a study of Swedish men showed that glyphosate exposure was significantly associated with an increased risk of NHL, and hairy cell leukemia - a rare subtype of NHL.²¹
- A 2003 review of studies conducted on farmers by researchers at the National Cancer Institute also shows that exposure to glyphosate is associated with an increased incidence of NHL.²²

Embryonic Cell Damage

- Researchers determined that the “inert” ingredients in glyphosate products, particularly polyethoxylated tallowamine or POEA - a surfactant commonly used in the product Roundup, are even more toxic than glyphosate itself. Studies reveal that POEA kills human embryonic cells.²³

Endocrine Disruption and Developmental Effects

- Glyphosate has also been associated with ADD/ADHD,²⁴ increased risks of late abortion,²⁵ and endocrine disruption.^{26,27}
- A 2013 study found that formulated Roundup could have an impact on male fertility.²⁸

¹⁹ De Roos, A J D , Blair, A., Rusiecki, J. A , Hoppin, J. A., Svec, M., Dosemeci, M , Sandler, D P , & Alavanja, MC .2005. “Cancer Incidence among Glyphosate-Exposed Pesticide Applicators in the Agricultural Health Study ” *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 113(1), 49-54

²⁰ Hardell, L , & Eriksson, M 1999 “A Case-Control Study of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and Exposure to Pesticides ” *Cancer*, 85(6), 1353–1360.

²¹ Hardell L, Eriksson M, & Nordstrom M. 2002 “Exposure to pesticides as risk factor for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and hairy cell leukemia. pooled analysis of two Swedish case-control studies.” *Leuk Lymphoma*, 43(5), 1043-1049

²² De Roos, et al. 2003. “Integrative assessment of multiple pesticides as risk factors for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma among men.” *Occup Environ Med*, 60(9)

²³ Benachour, et al. 2009 “Glyphosate Formulations Induce Apoptosis and Necrosis in Human Umbilical, Embryonic, and Placental Cells ” 22(1). 97-105 <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/tx800219n>

²⁴ Garry, V. F , et al 2002 “Birth defects, season of conception, and sex of children born to pesticide applicators living in the Red River Valley of Minnesota, USA ” *Environ Health Perspect*, 110(Suppl 3), 441–449

²⁵ Arbuckle, T E , Z. Lin, and L.S. Mery 2001 “An Exploratory Analysis of the Effect of Pesticide Exposure on the Risk of Spontaneous Abortion in an Ontario Farm Population ” *Environmental Health Perspectives* 109 851-857

²⁶ Walsh, L P , McCormick, C , Martin, C , & Stocco, D M 2000 “ Roundup Inhibits Steroidogenesis by Disrupting Steroidogenic Acute Regulatory (StAR) Protein Expression ” *Environ Health Perspect*, 108, 769–776

²⁷ Romano MA, Romano RM, Santos LD, et al 2012 “Glyphosate impairs male offspring reproductive development by disrupting gonadotropin expression.” *Arch Toxicol* 86(4) 663-73
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22120950>

²⁸ de Liz Oliveira Cavalli VL, Cattani D, Heinz Rieg CE, et al. 2013. “Roundup disrupts male reproductive functions by triggering calcium-mediated cell death in rat testis and Sertoli cells ” *Free Radic Biol Med* 65 335-46
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23820267>

II. Limitations of the Federal Pesticide Registration Process

Children and other vulnerable population groups are inadequately protected by the risk assessments that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses to register chemicals. Critical issues of exposure, such as the synergic effects of pesticides mixed with other pesticides or with pharmaceuticals, are not addressed by EPA or state regulation. "Inert" ingredients, which can make up over 90% of a pesticide product's formulation and be just as toxic as the active ingredient, are not fully evaluated and are not required to be disclosed to consumers. This omits crucial information that physicians and those that suspect they were poisoned by pesticides can use to treat possible pesticide-related illnesses.

The difficulty, from a public health perspective, is that the inadequate regulatory system, allowing widespread use of poisons that are more often than not unnecessary, results in a pesticide product label that is also inadequate, or fails in restricting use or conveying hazard information. This inadequate labeling leads to misinformation and mis-education about the safety of pesticide products, which can result in misuse and exposure that is otherwise avoidable.

As Public Education Associate at Beyond Pesticides, I take calls from the public on a wide range of pesticide-related issues. While some that call simply want to, for example, know how to handle cockroaches without toxic chemicals, others call our office after they've experienced a pesticide poisoning incident – and their stories are heart-wrenching. Connecticut should be proud of the pesticide rules it now has in place. In other states without these protections I hear from, for example, a mother whose autistic child can't go to school because of health effects from the constant spraying, or a teacher whose class was exposed to pesticide drift from an application during school hours. In many instances those who were poisoned encounter a high bar to find restitution, and even when disciplinary action is taken the resultant warning or fine gives them very little assurance that such an incident won't happen again.

We should be moving to prevent pesticide exposure whenever possible, not mitigate risk, because everyone, but especially the most vulnerable among us, has a right to freedom from exposure to toxic chemicals.

III. Effective Alternatives Are Available

Conventional landscape and turf management systems are generally centered on a synthetic product approach that continually treats "cosmetic" symptoms, while natural turf management is a "feed-the-soil" approach that centers on natural, organic fertilization, microbial inoculants, compost teas, and topdressing as needed with high quality finished compost. It is a program that supports the natural processes that nature has already in put in motion.

Experience finds that this approach builds a soil environment rich in microbial activity that will produce strong, healthy turf that is able to withstand many of the stresses that affect turfgrass.

The turf system will be better able to withstand pressures from heavy usage, insects, weeds, and disease, as well as drought and heat stress, as long as good cultural practices continue to be followed and products are chosen to enhance and continually address the soil biology.

While problems can arise in any turf system, they will be easier to alleviate with a soil that is healthy, and that has the proper microbiology in place. Given that, of 30 commonly used lawn and turf pesticides, 17 are linked with cancer or carcinogenicity, 11 are linked with birth defects, 19 with reproductive effects, 24 with liver or kidney damage, 14 with neurotoxicity, and 18 with disruption of the endocrine (hormonal) system (See Addendum B),²⁹ extending these management practices to the parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and municipal greens where children play is an important public health decision.

VI. Conclusion

While there are some who will view this bill as burdensome and fear that their current products may be pushed out of the marketplace, in reality, the public's health and the environment will be better protected as new, safer, cost-effective pest management practices and products continue to take hold.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We appreciate your commitment to protecting and improving health and the environment for children in Connecticut. Beyond Pesticides remains available to the Committee to address any questions or concerns related to this testimony.

²⁹ Beyond Pesticides "Health Effects of 30 Commonly Used Lawn Pesticides "
<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/lawn/factsheets/30health.pdf>

Addendum A:

A Beyond Pesticides Fact Sheet ■ A Beyond Pesticides Fact Sheet ■ A Beyond Pesticides Fact Sheet

Children and Pesticides

Children are especially vulnerable to pesticides

- The National Academy of Sciences reports that children are more susceptible to chemicals than adults and estimates that 90% of lifetime pesticide exposure occurs during the first five years of life.¹
- EPA concurs that children take in more pesticides relative to body weight than adults and have developing organ systems that are more vulnerable and less able to detoxify toxic chemicals.²
- Infants' crawling behavior and proximity to the floor account for a greater potential than adults for dermal and inhalation exposure to contaminants on carpets, floors, toys, and soil.³
- Children with developmental delays and those younger than six years are at increased risk of ingesting pesticides through nonfood items, such as soil.⁴
- Studies find that pesticides such as the weedkiller 2,4-D pass from mother to child through umbilical cord blood and breast milk.⁵
- Consistent observations have led investigators to conclude that chronic low-dose exposure to certain pesticides might pose a hazard to the health and development of children.⁶
- The World Health Organization (WHO) notes that over 30% of the global burden of disease in children can be attributed to environmental factors, including pesticides.⁷

Children, cancer and pesticides

- The probability of an effect such as cancer, which requires a period of time to develop after exposure, is enhanced if exposure occurs early in life.⁸
- A study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* finds that household and garden pesticide use can increase the risk of childhood leukemia as much as sevenfold.⁹
- Studies show that children living in households where pesticides are used suffer elevated rates of leukemia, brain cancer and soft tissue sarcoma.¹⁰
- Pesticides can increase susceptibility to certain cancers by breaking down the immune system's surveillance against

cancer cells. Infants and children, the aged and the chronically ill are at greatest risk from chemical-induced immune suppression.¹¹

- A study published by the American Cancer Society finds an increased risk for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) in people exposed to common herbicides and fungicides, particularly the weedkiller metoprop (MCP) and glyphosate (Roundup). People exposed to glyphosate are 2.7 times more likely to develop NHL.¹²
- 75 out of a 199 human studies done on lymphoma and pesticides find a link between the two.¹³
- Four peer-reviewed studies demonstrate the ability of glyphosate-containing herbicides to cause genetic damage to DNA (mutagenicity), even at very low concentration levels.¹⁴
- A 2007 study published in *Environmental Health Perspectives* finds that children born to mothers living in households with pesticide use during pregnancy had over twice as much risk of getting cancer, specifically acute leukemia (AL) or non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL).¹⁵
- A 2007 Canadian report shows that a greater environmental risk exists for boys, specifically when it comes to cancer, asthma, learning and behavioral disorders, birth defects and testicular dysgenesis syndrome.¹⁶

Commonly Used Chemicals

Chemical	Common Use	Health Effects
2,4-D	Lawns	c, ed, r, n, kl, st, bd
Dicamba	Lawns	r, n, kl, st, bd
Fipronil	Indoor/outdoor baits, pet care	c, ed, n, vl, st
Glyphosate	Lawns	c, r, n, kl, st
Permethrin	Mosquitoes, head lice, garden	c, ed, r, n, kl, st

Key: Birth/developmental defects=bd, kidney/liver damage=kl, Sensitizer/Irritant=s, Cancer=c, Neurotoxicity=n, Endocrine Disruption=ed; Reproductive effects=r

Alternatives

Reduce exposure to toxic chemicals by adopting sound organic or integrated pest management (IPM) practices that use cultural, mechanical and biological methods of control and least-toxic chemicals only as a last resort. An organic diet limits children's pesticide exposure and toxic body burden.

Addendum B:

30 Commonly Used Lawn Pesticides

	Health Effects						
	Cancer	Endocrine Disruption	Reproductive Effects	Neurotoxicity	Kidney/Liver Damage	Sensitizer/Irritant	Birth Defects
Herbicides							
2,4-D ¹	X ⁶	X ¹⁰	X ⁷	X ⁹	X ⁹	X ⁻	X ¹¹
Benfluralin					X ¹	X ¹	
Bensulide				X ⁻	X ¹	X	
Clopyralid			X ¹			X ⁻	X ¹
Dachthal		X ⁶			X ⁷	X ¹¹	
Dicamba ¹			X	X	X	X ⁶	X
Diquat Dibromide			X ¹		X ¹¹	X ¹	
Fluazifop-p-butyl			X ¹		X		X
Glyphosate ¹	X ⁷	X ⁸	X ¹		X ⁹	X ¹	
Isoxaben	X ⁵				X ²		
MCPA		X ⁶	X ²	X ²	X ¹¹	X ¹	
MCPP ¹	X ⁷	X ⁶	X ¹	X ¹	X ⁹	X ¹	X ¹
Pelargonic Acid ¹						X ¹	
Pendimethalin ¹		X ⁶	X ¹			X ²	
Pronamide		X ⁶			X ⁹	X ¹	
Triclopyr			X ¹		X ⁷	X	X ¹
Trifluralin ¹		X ⁶	X ¹		X ²	X ¹	
Insecticides							
Acephate		X ⁶	X ¹	X ⁻		X	
Bifenthrin ¹		X ⁶	X ¹	X ²		X	X ⁹
Carbaryl ¹	X ³	X ¹⁰	X ²	X ¹	X ¹¹	X ¹	X ⁷
Dichlorvos	X ⁶	X ¹⁰		X ¹¹	X ²	X ¹¹	
Fipronil		X ⁶	X ²	X ²	X ⁹	X ⁻	
Imidacloprid			X ⁷		X ²		X ⁷
Malathion ¹		X ¹⁰	X ¹¹	X ⁹	X ⁷	X ¹	X ⁷
Permethrin ¹	X ³	X ¹⁰	X ⁷	X ⁹	X ⁶	X ¹	
Trichlorfon	X ³	X ⁶	X ¹¹	X	X ²		X
Fungicides							
Azoxystrobin					X ¹	X	
Myclobutanil			X ²		X ¹		
Sulfur						X ⁻	
Ziram	Suggestive ¹	X ⁶		X ¹	X ⁻	X	
Totals	17	18	19	14	24	25	11



Local and Organic Since 1982

February 28, 2014

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee

I am writing on behalf of the over 800 members of CT NOFA, the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut, to support HB-5330 to ban the use of toxic lawn care pesticides on Connecticut's parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and municipal greens. This ban will help protect the health of children and other living things who use these facilities.

Since 1990 CT NOFA members have been involved in managing landscapes organically, without the use of toxic pesticides. The benefits in terms of soil health, worker health and public safety have been clear for over 20 years.

Since 2000, the NOFA Organic Land Care Program has educated thousands of land care professionals in organic methods in response to both the professionals and the public who ask for non-toxic lawn care. (Visit organiclandcare.net to learn more about this program and the many resources there for citizens and professionals. Many of these resources were supported by the US EPA in order to protect Long Island Sound from the effects of lawn care chemicals.)

Almost every month we learn about another way that toxic pesticides interfere with human health. We have very little knowledge of all the negative effects of individual pesticides and know even less about their effects in combination. (For example, a recent study on bees found that it was combinations of fungicides that make them more vulnerable to diseases. And it had been thought that fungicides designed to kill fungi wouldn't have any effect on bees.)

The essay pasted below describes the kind of situation this bill will prevent. In this case it was nearly 100 5th and 6th grade students in Bridgeport who were visiting Beardsley Park for an end of the year nature walk and picnic. The herbicides being applied that day were dangerous, improperly applied, ineffective and polluting. Why should taxpayers support this really stupid way of doing things.

Reluctant communities, toxic chemical companies and recalcitrant maintenance people need the wisdom of HB-5330 in order to keep our children safe. Thank you.

<http://archive.sare.org/sanet-mg/archives/html-home/35-html/0209.html>
Pesticides in Our Parks

Living on the Earth, July 9, 1999

Pesticides in Our Parks

by Bill Duesing

Bridgeport's Beardsley Park stretches south for over a mile along the Pequonnock River, from suburban Trumbull into the gritty center of Connecticut's largest, and one of its most economically-challenged cities. The Pequonnock River empties into Long Island Sound about five miles south of the park. On the east bank, well-trimmed lawn, large trees and rock outcrops roll gently down to ballfields and the river. The west side of the park and the river has been run over by an eight-lane highway. One morning in June I was scouting out a picnic site for Suzanne's fifth-grade and her colleague's sixth-grade classes. It was easy to find the right combination of tables, water fountain, ball fields and access to the nature trail. Beardsley Park is a beautiful place, and it was practically empty this weekday. Suzanne and her students feel lucky to have the park within walking distance of school. As I headed back to Thomas Hooker, I noticed a landscape crew in a small truck spreading something on the grass under the trees. Thinking of the

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut

A growing community of organic farmers, gardeners, land care professionals and consumers
126 Derby Avenue, Derby, CT 06418 • 203-308-2584 • www.ctnofa.org



Local and Organic Since 1982

kids about to walk over to the park, I talked to the men while they were refilling the spreader. It took four of them and a large dump truck to keep the application rig supplied. There were already lots of empty bags around. I saw that they had contained a 22 percent nitrogen fertilizer mixed with a broadleaf weed killer called Trimec(tm).

I questioned the workmen about the wisdom of applying soluble nitrogen, a serious environmental pollutant, especially in Long Island Sound. I also asked about spreading a chemical which is designed to kill many useful and edible plants. Of the 33 so-called "weeds" this poison claims to eliminate, at least 15 are edible and many others are medicinal or simply beautiful. The crew members said that they were just following orders--"doing their jobs." However, they were interested when I pointed out that the herbicide label required applicators to wear long-sleeved shirts and wash their clothes separately. Several workers were wearing short sleeves. I reported this situation to the students, who were anxiously awaiting this field trip, and encouraged them to stay off the grass and wash well when they got home. We couldn't say "no" to sixty kids on such a beautiful day. Fortunately, most of their direct contact with the ground involved rolling down hills which were too steep for the pesticide applicators.

Later research revealed that Trimec(tm) is actually three herbicides mixed together: 2, 4-D, dicamba and mecoprop. They are all chemically related and purposely cause "abnormal growth." One half of Agent Orange, 2,4-D is rated very hazardous. Dicamba seems to be toxic to most animal systems and organs. Trimec(tm) also contains 60 percent so-called "inert" ingredients.

"Inert" is just a regulatory code word that allows the chemical industry to withhold ingredient information. Some of them are certainly not "inert." No safety tests have been done on this complex chemical cocktail of powerful, synthetic, biotoxic substances.

Trimec(tm)'s label warned against applying when conditions "favor drift." That day, there was a steady breeze blowing from the northwest. The label also said to avoid contact with skin, eyes or clothing, and to avoid applications over the roots of desirable trees. Although the label on a pesticide container carries the force of Federal law, it seemed that all of the warnings were being ignored.

Five days later, most of the so-called "weeds" in the park were still thriving, although the grass was very brown from being close-cropped during the drought. Of course, both the fertilizer and this herbicide are less effective in dry conditions.

A much more ecologically-beneficial, and less expensive approach would include cutting the grass higher, adding limestone if needed and sowing a bit of clover at the appropriate time.

Spreading soluble nitrogen mixed with toxic herbicides is legal, culturally-correct and encouraged by the chemical industry. It is, however, ecologically, medically, economically and socially insane, especially in this Bridgeport park.

The potential for negative effects from just this one application is enormous. And, it's probably also happening in a park near you. It will only stop when enough of us speak up and object.

(C)1999, Bill Duesing, Solar Farm Education, Box 135, Stevenson, CT 06491

Bill Duesing bduesing@mac.com

CT NOFA Organic Advocate

Old Solar Farm

Oxford, CT 06478

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut

A growing community of organic farmers, gardeners, land care professionals and consumers

126 Derby Avenue, Derby, CT 06418 • 203-308-2584 • www.ctnafa.org



Mary C. Roberts
Director

Testimony of Mary C. Roberts
Director of CT Federation of Catholic School Parents

Public Health Committee
March 14, 2013

H.B. 5330, *"An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens."*

Good Morning, Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Mary Roberts and I am the Director of the CT Federation of Catholic School Parents. I appreciate this opportunity to offer my comments in opposition to H.B. 5330, *"An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides at Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens."*

Our opposition to HB 5330 is based upon the fact that it is already extremely expensive for Catholic high schools to maintain their grounds and athletic fields for student activities and sports. If pesticides are completely prohibited, it is likely that our grounds and athletic fields may quickly fall into irreversible disrepair.

There are 113 Catholic schools, including 18 high schools in Connecticut, with enrollment of close to 30,000 students. Unlike many of the public high schools, very few Catholic high schools can afford to have "astro-turf" fields for their athletic events. The groundskeepers at Catholic high schools work very hard with limited funds to maintain the natural grounds and athletic fields for outdoor activities and athletic events. The provisions of this bill would make their jobs even more difficult.

Every day, Catholic schools in Connecticut fight to keep the tuition down for our 30,000 families. And our schools save taxpayers in Connecticut about \$400, 000 million each year in education costs because our students are not attending public schools.

We respectfully request that the members of the Public Health Committee do not move forward with the restrictions concerning the application of lawn pesticides at school grounds to the application of pesticides at parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and municipal greens.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our position.

Mary C. Roberts
Director
CT Federation of Catholic School Parents



Representing Household & Institutional Products

Aerials Air Care Cleaners Polishes
Automotive Care Automobiles Pest Management

Testimony of the
CONSUMER SPECIALTY PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION
Remarks on
HOUSE BILL 5330

*AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC
 FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS*
presented to the
JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
MARCH 14, 2014

Presented by: Owen Caine, Manager, State Affairs – East Region

Co-Chairs Gerratana and Johnson, Ranking Members Welch and Srinivasan, and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Public Health, my name is Owen Caine and I am Manager of State Affairs for the Eastern United States at the Consumer Specialty Products Association (CSPA). CSPA appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony in **Opposition to House Bill 5330, AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS.**

The Consumer Specialty Products Association (CSPA) is the premier trade association representing the interests of companies engaged in the manufacture, formulation, distribution and sale of more than \$100 billion annually in the U.S. of familiar consumer products that help household and institutional customers create cleaner and healthier environments. CSPA member companies employ hundreds of thousands of people globally. Products CSPA represents include disinfectants that kill germs in homes, hospitals and restaurants; air fresheners, room deodorizers and candles that eliminate odors; pest management products for home, lawn and garden, and pets; cleaning products and polishes for use throughout the home and institutions; products used to protect and improve the performance and appearance of automobiles; aerosol products and a host of other products used every day. Through its product stewardship program, Product Care®, and scientific and business-to-business endeavors, CSPA provides its members a platform to effectively address issues regarding the health, safety and sustainability of their products. For more information, please visit www.cspa.org.

CSPA members are committed to manufacturing and marketing safe, innovative and sustainable products that provide essential benefits to consumers while protecting human health and the environment. CSPA member products improve the quality of human life and are necessary to protect the public health against dangerous diseases, infestation and unsanitary conditions. CSPA members are committed to providing products that are thoroughly evaluated for human and environmental safety and go through rigorous safety-based assessments before they are brought to market. CSPA members are also committed

The Consumer Specialty Products Association
Testimony
March 14, 2014 - Page 2 of 4

to clear and meaningful labeling on consumer products, *i.e.*, easily understood information to ensure safe and effective use and disposal. CSPA has a product stewardship program called Product Care® that assists members in meeting these commitments. In addition, CSPA members routinely apply green chemistry and green engineering principles in their operations and have been honored with awards for their efforts.

CSPA and its members support the implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs to evaluate all reasonable means of preventing and mitigating pest infestations. IPM is recognized internationally as a way to manage pests effectively and in an environmentally sensitive manner. As explained by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, IPM includes the judicious use of pesticides:

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

The IPM approach can be applied to both agricultural and non-agricultural settings, such as the home, garden, and workplace. IPM takes advantage of all appropriate pest management options **including, but not limited to, the judicious use of pesticides** [*emphasis added*]. In contrast, *organic* food production applies many of the same concepts as IPM but limits the use of pesticides to those that are produced from natural sources, as opposed to synthetic chemicals.¹

Indeed, pesticides are not the cornerstone of IPM, which relies on a variety of approaches and an understanding of the conditions that breed pest infestations, but it is an important component that should not be removed by legislation such as HB 5330. Connecticut has been afforded a glimpse of the unintended consequences of prohibitions similar to what is proposed in this legislation, as the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns and Parks and Recreation Directors from municipalities across the state testified before the Planning and Development Committee last year:

Many districts have sport fields which have deteriorated to such a degree that play on them could cause injury because the grass is patchy and the dirt spots are too prevalent. Boards of education have adopted integrated pest management plans and the best implementation of the plans has been derailed by the ban on pesticides...All of the plantings that have also made

¹ United States Environmental Protection Agency IPM Factsheet accessed online on Thursday, February 14, 2013
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/ipm.htm>

The Consumer Specialty Products Association
Testimony
March 14, 2014 - Page 3 of 4

the grounds so attractive have suffered and now are not worth the financial investment to replace.²

COST [Connecticut Council of Small Towns] has heard from numerous towns throughout Connecticut whose athletic fields, fence lines and schools grounds simply cannot be maintained adequately and safely due to the restrictions on the use of Integrated Pest Management Plans.³

Healthy green space is important to maintain

Integrated Pest Management plans are aimed at maintaining healthy green spaces once they have been established. The testimony by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and the Connecticut Council of Small Towns illustrate the difficulty in maintaining green spaces once pesticides have been removed from the IPM "toolbox." Healthy turf has a number of environmental benefits, which underscore the need to maintain those green spaces:

- **Improved water quality** – grass filters storm water runoff, helping to slow and purify water before it is returned to surface and aquifer sources,
- **Reduced sedimentation and soil erosion** – grass provides a thick root structure, holding soil in place during storm events,
- **Improved air quality** – healthy grass crowds out allergy causing plants, reducing exposure to allergens.

Pesticide products used in Connecticut are highly regulated

Pesticide products sold and used in Connecticut must be registered with EPA and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Federal law requires that before selling or distributing a pesticide in the United States, a person or company must obtain registration, or license from EPA. Before registering a new pesticide or new use for a registered pesticide, EPA must first ensure that the pesticide, when used according to label directions, can be used with a reasonable certainty of no harm to human health and without posing unreasonable risks to the environment. To make such determination, EPA requires more than 100 different scientific studies and tests from applicants. As explained on the EPA website:

The process of registering a pesticide is a scientific, legal, and administrative procedure through which EPA examines the ingredients of the pesticide; the particular site or crop on which it is to be used; the amount, frequency, and timing of its use; and storage and disposal practices. In evaluating a pesticide registration application, EPA assesses a wide variety of potential human

² Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc in support of HB 5155 (2012), submitted to Connecticut's Joint Planning and Development Committee, February 22, 2012

³ Testimony of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns in support of HB 5155 (2012), submitted to Connecticut's Joint Planning and Development Committee, February 22, 2012

The Consumer Specialty Products Association
Testimony
March 14, 2014 - Page 4 of 4

health and environmental effects associated with use of the product. The producer of the pesticide must provide data from tests done according to EPA guidelines.

These tests evaluate whether a pesticide has the potential to cause adverse effects on humans, wildlife, fish, and plants, including endangered species and non-target organisms, as well as possible contamination of surface water or ground water from leaching, runoff, and spray drift. Potential human risks range from short-term toxicity to long-term effects such as cancer and reproductive system disorders. EPA also must approve the language that appears on each pesticide label. A pesticide product can only be used legally according to the directions on the labeling accompanying it at the time of sale. Following label instructions carefully and precisely is necessary to ensure safe use.

The Pesticide Management Program at DEEP regulates the use of pesticides in Connecticut.

Conclusion

CSPA and our members support the responsible and judicious use of pesticides and the use of IPM programs to mitigate and prevent pest infestations. House Bill 5330 would not make Connecticut fields and recreational areas safer to student athletes or citizens.

CSPA respectfully *urges your NO vote on HB 5330*. Thank you for considering our position on this exceedingly important issue and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Please support SB-46 & HB-5330. I am very concerned about my children [Connecticut's children] being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut has a law prohibiting the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to these toxic chemicals? Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides."

Sincerely,

Laura & David Sinaguglia

22 Brewster Road

Windsor, CT 06096

Hello Representative Fritz and the Public Health Committee,
I am writing, asking that you support HB 5330.

Why would we want to further tax the health of our citizens, especially children and our animals, too. There are so many toxic elements that folks are confronted with daily in our environment which we can do little about. This is one we *can* do something about. Lets take steps toward a less toxic environment. Lets ban the use of these toxic pesticide in *all* public places with which people and animals have contact.

Please support HB 5330.

Sincerely,
Scott Gray
Wallingford, CT

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides.

Sincerely,

Joyce Kowalczyk
3A Pilgrims Harbor
Wallingford, CT 06492



**Testimony
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the
Public Health Committee
March 14, 2014**

HB-5330 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS

Since the ban on the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plans on K-8 school grounds became effective on July 1, 2010, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) has heard from many towns throughout the state regarding the problems they face with the maintenance of their athletic fields and school grounds. By extending the ban to include parks, playgrounds, athletic fields and municipal greens, we are concerned that these municipal areas will fall into disrepair and potentially create hazardous situations for residents and visitors.

Understandably, communities want to continue to do their part to ensure that state laws and policies involving the use of pesticides are successful in protecting the health and safety of our children. Towns have been actively searching for ways in which to proceed, but continue to be faced with differing viewpoints and somewhat conflicting studies relative to pesticides.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent update to the strategic plan on Integrated Pest Management, IPM is cost-effective, reduces exposure to pests and pesticides and reduces overall pesticide use. Given this report, it is surprising that Connecticut would consider expanding the ban on IPM.

Recently the MORE Commission Mandate Subcommittee recommended the creation of a Pesticide Advisory Council, a balanced council that will develop policies around the use of pesticides. This is a key step in the development of policies around the use of pesticides and in the protection of the health and safety of our children.

COST supports the MORE Commission Mandate Subcommittee recommendations to:

- 1 Utilize the legislatively created Pesticide Advisory Council to review all new pesticides on a continuing basis for safety and effectiveness and report their findings to the Commissioner of DEEP for consideration; and
2. Require DEEP, in consultation with the Pesticide Advisory Council, to develop and disseminate best practices to assist in guiding towns regarding these issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Mary Fox 5330

Please consider carefully a way to ban toxic lawn fertilizers, and especially the herbicides, in public green spaces. Our kids and pets should be able to roll around in the grass without us fearing what they are coming into contact with.

Thank you,

Mary Fox
520 Prospect Avenue
Hartford, CT

Laura Cahn 5330

To The Honorable Terry Gerratana and Susan Johnson, Co-Chairs, and Members of the Public Health Committee:

Please support HB-5330 to ban toxic lawn pesticides from Connecticut's parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, and municipal greens.

It's great that Connecticut has a law prohibiting the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds through grade 8. But our young people are not protected in other places like high schools and public outdoor space.

These poisons are destroying our soil, our water, our plants, our wildlife, and us. Many of them are banned in other countries. Why are we poisoning ourselves with them?

Thank you very much for making all the citizens of Connecticut safer.

Sincerely,

Laura Cahn
54 Cleveland Road
New Haven, CT 06515

Linda Gilbert

HB 5330

3/14/14 Public Hearing

Honorable Members of the Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5330, An Act Concerning the Application of Pesticides in Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens. The time is right to expand Connecticut's robust pesticide protections for kids up to grade 8 to include all the outdoor landscapes where children can be exposed to harmful chemicals.

I am very concerned about Connecticut's children being exposed to toxic lawn pesticides and am very pleased that Connecticut now has a law banning the use of toxic lawn pesticides at day care centers and school grounds with children through grade 8. But why are our young people not protected in other places like high schools, parks, playgrounds, municipal sports fields and town greens where they are involuntarily exposed to toxic chemicals that cause harm?

Chemicals that build up in children's bodies, and have been linked to cancer, developmental disabilities, hormone disruption, and other serious health effects have no place where children play

Please support legislation to protect Connecticut's children wherever they may be exposed to toxic lawn pesticides

Sincerely,

Linda Gilbert
89 Frances Drive
Manchester, CT 06040

Jack, 5330

Good Morning Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Jack, and I'm an 8th grader. I have been able to play safely on the grass at recess thanks, to a ban on toxic lawn pesticides.

But, since kindergarten, my friends and I have been going to our football practices, lacrosse practices, and baseball practices at our high school. My father has been my coach for every single one of my seasons. My mother and sisters have come to every single game that I have played on these fields. We have all spent many hours sitting in the grass. We have leaned back on our hands and never thought about the chemicals in the grass getting absorbed into our bodies through our skin.

I recently learned that we have been exposed to dangerous chemicals in the grass for all those years. And my puppy, Mojo, who runs free on the fields every day, has been exposed as well.

I am in support of HB 5330, because next year I'm going to high school. I don't want to play on grass covered in toxic chemicals, whether I'm at school, the town soccer fields, or at a park. I don't want my family, friends, or dog to get sick in the future.

Please vote in support of this bill. Thank you.