

NEWS RELEASE

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House Passes Legislation to Phase Out Toxic Bisphenol A in Food and Beverage Containers Health-protective Bill Sets National Precedent

(Hartford, CT) Today the Connecticut House of Representatives passed comprehensive legislation that will phase out Bisphenol A (BPA) in food and beverage containers including baby bottles, infant formula cans, and re-usable food containers and bottles. BPA, a synthetic sex hormone linked to diabetes, breast and prostate cancer and other diseases, has been shown to leach from containers directly into food and beverages, especially when heated.

The House vote comes on the heels of a number of announcements and reports that provide mounting evidence that exposure to even low levels of BPA can harm health, particularly that of developing fetuses. Just last week, an international collection of scientists critiqued the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for its handling of BPA. Last month, Health Canada released tests showing that BPA was present in 96% of all soft drinks tested. Sunoco and six major baby bottle manufacturers announced restrictions and phase outs of BPA. The Suffolk County New York Legislature also voted unanimously to ban BPA from baby bottles and sippy cups.

Public health, labor and environmental advocates praised the leadership of Representatives Beth Bye (bill sponsor), House Environment Committee Chair Dick Roy, and House Speaker Chris Donovan who played instrumental roles in bringing the legislation to a vote.

“Whenever we have an opportunity to protect the welfare of our children, we should never ever turn our backs,” said State Representative Richard Roy (D, Milford).

"This bill is a testament to the hard work of environmental advocates who have worked tirelessly on this issue with CT legislators since last session," said State Representative Beth Bye (D, West Hartford). I am proud to be a part of a bill where CT leads the way in providing our residents with protections from Bisphenol A. I hope we can be an example for other states and for federal legislation."

Key components of the bill include:

- a ban on BPA in all reusable food and beverage containers, as well as infant formula and baby food cans and jars, beginning two years after enactment
- labeling requirements on all food and beverage cans containing BPA, starting in October of 2011

Now the bill moves to the Senate, where advocates hope a vote will take place next week.

Please direct questions to the contacts listed above.

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