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STATE SENATE PASSES BAN ON THERMAL RECEIPTS THAT CONTAIN BISPHENOL-A

HARTFORD – The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut announced that the State Senate today unanimously approved legislation that would prohibit the use of Bisphenol-A or BPA in thermal receipt paper.

“Continued public concern over the presence of dangerous chemicals in children’s and consumer products coupled with Congressional inaction on the matter means that individual states need to address these issues,” said **Anne Hulick, Coordinator for the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut**. “We are thrilled that Senators on both sides of the aisle recognize the importance of continuing Connecticut’s leadership in restricting exposure to BPA.”

With a 2013 enactment date, Hulick said that Connecticut businesses have more than 2 years to use up their current stock of receipt paper and switch to an EPA suggested safe alternative. She added, “While our mission continues to be protecting consumers from toxic chemical exposure, we believe this particular bill is realistic for state businesses.”

Senator Ed Meyer (D-Guilford), Senate Chairman of the Environment Committee, thanked the Coalition "for its long and successful battle against toxic chemicals."

BPA, a known endocrine disruptor is linked in over 185 scientific studies to many serious health problems including breast and prostate cancer, reproductive, metabolic, and neurobehavioral disorders. Infants and children are specifically vulnerable to the dangers of BPA since exposure is greater pound for pound and they do not have fully developed systems to metabolize BPA. Pregnant women are encouraged to avoid BPA as it is easily transmitted to a developing fetus.

_____ of **Connecticut Council on Occupational Safety and Health (ConnectiCOSH)** praised the Senate action saying, “Businesses have a responsibility to both their customers and employees to provide them with a safe environment in which to shop and work. They certainly wouldn’t be allowed to open their doors if asbestos was

hanging from the ceiling or lead paint peeling from the walls. Switching out receipt paper over a period of a few years seems like a small measure that I hope will make a big impact on consumer and worker health.”

“Bisphenol-A exposure poses a health risk to consumers and workers alike,” said **Noele Kidney, Project Coordinator for the Connecticut Public Health Association**. “CPHA commends members of the Senate Chamber for taking this important step toward protecting public health.”

The bill now goes to the State House of Representatives for consideration. Hulick said that if the bill is approved by members in that chamber, Connecticut will become the first state in the nation to institute the ban.

The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut is made up of over 50 organizations representing health professionals, workers, nurses, businesses, environmentalists, occupational safety advocates, people of faith, and individuals whose health has been impacted by toxic chemicals.

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