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## **Letter to the editor: Chemicals may have had effect on health**

Six years ago, when I was in my mid-50s and otherwise in good health, I was diagnosed with early-stage breast cancer. There was no family history of the disease. Twenty-five years ago, my daughter was born with developmental delays of unknown origin. Again, there is no family history of developmental problems. Because of her needs, I had to leave my job. My years of being a productive taxpaying citizen were cut short by more than 30 years. Recently, I was diagnosed with an auto-immune disorder known as Sjögren's Syndrome. That's a lot of health problems for someone who follows good nutrition and health guidelines.

I grew up in the 1950s in a small town in Iowa surrounded by chemicals — in my father's garden, the nearby soybean fields and in the air, when DDT was routinely sprayed each summer. This makes me think that exposure to toxic chemicals could have played a role in the list of health problems in my life.

The Legislature is considering a bill that is a cost-effective step toward protecting the health of future generations of children in Connecticut. I hope our legislators will prioritize a safer future by passing SB 274 this year.

**SUSAN ZIMMERMAN**  
**Hanover**

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