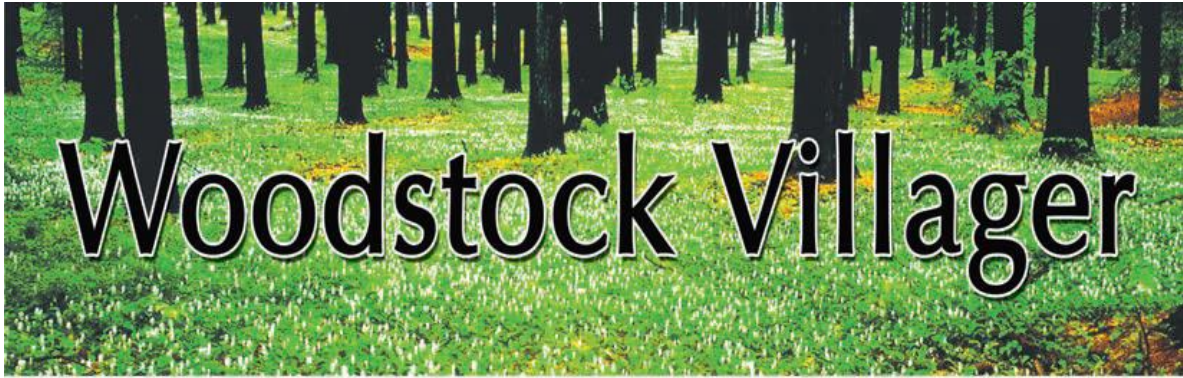


# OPINION

*Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protecting our children from harmful



# OPINION

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **Protecting our children from Harmful Chemicals**

To the Editor:

As an occupational therapist who works with children and their parents, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 126, An Act Concerning Children's Exposure to Chemicals, because of my concern about the presence of toxic chemicals in consumer and especially children's products.

There is now a large body of scientific evidence linking exposure to toxic chemicals in consumer products, beginning in the womb, with the rise in many serious diseases including childhood brain cancers and leukemia, reproductive disorders, behavioral and learning disorders, adult cancers, asthma, diabetes and even obesity, consumers must rely on governmental regulation to protect us from unnecessary exposure.

This is important to me because, as an occupational therapist who has specialized in pediatrics for the past 15 years, I have seen an increasing number of children with problems that interfere with family life, play, and learning. As we learn more about the effects of toxins on developing brains, I am concerned that we are causing problems by allowing so many harmful chemicals in the environment, without knowledge of what all the interactions could be. At the very least we can work to eliminate some of the worst offenders and allow consumers to be informed when toxic chemicals are present in products.

We know it can be done because the European Union, Maine, Washington, California and Minnesota have already identified chemicals of concern. Certainly our Department of Public Health can utilize these lists to protect the citizens of Connecticut.

I urge you to let your elected officials know you support passage of SB 126, An Act Concerning Children's Exposure to Chemicals, this session as good for our children, our families, and our economy.

Janet Bellamy  
Ashford

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