Comments before the Environment Committee in favor of SB 210.

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and honorable members of the Environment Committee, my name is Noele Kidney and I am the Project Coordinator for the Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA). For over 90 years, the Connecticut Public Health Association has been committed to improving the quality of the public health profession and advocating for policies and programs that promote health and prevent disease. CPHA has more than 300 members representing a wide variety of disciplines, all united in the goal of protecting and promoting the public's health. Our mission statement at CPHA states that we are to "represent and unite the diverse expertise of Connecticut's public health professionals, to improve the most pressing public health issues in the state, and to promote healthy and safe living for the people of Connecticut."

CPHA supports Senate Bill 210 because banning the chemical bisphenol-A or BPA from thermal receipt paper does "promote health and safe living for the people of Connecticut." BPA is a known *endocrine disruptor*. The Environmental Protection Agency website describes this as a chemical that mimics a natural hormone, therefore "fooling the body into over-responding to the stimulus, or responding at inappropriate times."[1] BPA has been linked to early-onset puberty in girls, breast and prostate cancers, and numerous reproductive disorders. Since BPA in thermal receipt paper easily transmits through skin, it is very important to eliminate BPA exposure to the public. [2]

Two years ago, Connecticut took an important step to protect children against the dangers of BPA – with broad support on both sides of the aisle. I urge the members of this committee to support Senate Bill 210 because further legislation is needed to protect consumers from toxic chemical exposure.

Thank you for your time.

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[1] **www.epa.gov/endo/pubs/edspoverview/whatare.htm**

[2] **Chapel Hill bisphenol-A expert panel consensus statement: Integration of mechanisms, effects in animals and potential to impact human health at current levels of exposure. Reproductive Toxicology, 24 (2), August-September 2007, p. 131-138.**