



## **State of Connecticut**

**African-American Affairs Commission**

**State Capitol**

**210 Capitol Avenue – Room 509**

**Hartford, CT 06106**

**860-240-8555**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, Senator Welch, Representative Srinivasan, distinguished members of the Public Health Committee.

First off I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Raised Bill 126. My name is Subira Gordon and I am the legislative analyst for the African American Affairs Commission. The AAAC supports this bill because we believe that this is good public policy.

Research shows that there are clear links between exposures to harmful chemicals which increases children's risk to certain diseases that include some cancers, asthma and childhood obesity. Some states have passed legislation that address comprehensive chemical reform these include are Maine, Washington, California and Minnesota and others are currently also considering legislation. While I believe that there should be strong federal policy on this issue to eliminate separate standards between states, with the absence of federal leadership, Connecticut should join the list in being proactive at identifying chemicals which are potentially

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*To improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut*

harmful to our state's children. The AAAC commends the efforts of the legislature on the passage of a BPA ban on thermal receipts in 2011. Raised Bill 126 would continue on this trend of protecting our citizens from chemicals that have been proven to be harmful. While we understand that harmful chemicals exist in everyday products it is important to make the best effort possible to eliminate or control exposure to as many of these chemicals as possible.

Thank you again for your time.