



Senator David R. Miramant

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Senate of

Maine

Senate District 12

Testimony Presenting LD 316
"An Act To Prohibit the Use of Chlorpyrifos"

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Good morning Sen. Dill, Rep. O'Neil and distinguished members of the Agriculture Conservation and Forestry Committee. My name is Dave Miramant, and I proudly represent all of the people of Appleton, Camden, Criehaven, Cushing, Friendship, Hope, Isle au Haut, Matinicus, Muscle Ridge Islands, North Haven, Owl's Head, Rockland, Rockport, South Thomaston, St. George, Thomaston, Union, Vinalhaven and Warren in the Maine Senate.

Chlorpyrifos is a neurotoxic insecticide used in the production of fruits and vegetables throughout the U.S. It has been widely studied for its neurodevelopmental effects on children and because of this, it was prohibited from indoor use in 2001. In 2003, researchers published the first study linking the chemical to potential developmental harm in children. Studies published between 2006 and 2014 showed that those same infants had developmental delays that persisted into childhood, with lower scores on standard developmental tests and changes that researchers could see on MRI scans of the children's brains.

In 2016 the EPA again focused on those epidemiological studies and attempted to back-calculate how much chlorpyrifos they might have been exposed to throughout pregnancy.

On the basis of this analysis, the Obama administration concluded that chlorpyrifos could not be safely used and should be banned. However, the Trump administration reversed this decision in 2017, arguing that the science was not resolved and more study was needed. Those studies are in!

In California's Salinas Valley, a UC Berkeley study found that the group exposed to the highest levels of organophosphate during pregnancy was associated with a 7-point drop in IQ scores in 7-year-olds.

A Columbia University study found decreases in full-scale IQ and working memory of 7-year-olds associated with tiny increases in prenatal exposure to chlorpyrifos. Another study of the same group found that 3-year-old children were more likely to experience delays in development, attention problems, ADHD problems and pervasive developmental disorder problems.

A UC Davis study found that mothers who live within a mile of fields where chlorpyrifos and other organophosphate pesticides were applied had a 60 percent higher chance of having children with autism spectrum disorder. The link between autism and pesticides may be that gestational exposures tip the balance towards increasing autism risk.

A study on pregnant women exposed to chlorpyrifos through home insecticide use demonstrated a link between in utero exposure to chlorpyrifos and decreased birth length and decreased birth weight. These effects on size were no longer significant in newborns born after 2001 when indoor residential use of chlorpyrifos was phased out.

Hawaii and California have already banned this dangerous organophosphate and New York is phasing it out. Maine needs to take the same step to protect our children who are bioaccumulating this toxin and having their future destroyed for corporate profits.

Thank you for your consideration and I will try to answer any questions if I can.