

My name is Carolyn Brinski and I represent the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center in Boulder. Thank you for taking public testimony on this issue of great importance to our health and environment.

We appreciate that ^{Rep. Beckers} ~~this Committee~~ made several important improvements to the Senate version of the Pesticide Applicator bill. This includes: addition of members to the Pesticide Advisory Committee representing farm worker safety, beekeepers, and a public applicator with IPM training; better involvement by the Department of Public Health and Environment; the reduction of the sunset review cycle to about 5 years; posting of enforcement actions upon their resolution; and requirements for registration and training to public applicators and limited commercial applicators. Thank you.

We recommend further strengthening of the bill by including all of the following elements:

1. More representation on the Pesticide Advisory Committee from people who are affected by pesticides rather than the current domination of the PAC by the pesticide industry. Representation on PAC should include people from the following areas: medical/toxicology expertise, organic farming; and wildlife concerns. The pesticide formulator position on the PAC should be eliminated.
2. Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of pesticides, due to their smaller size and to their developmental processes. The 2012 Policy Statement by the American Academy of Pediatrics noted that there is mounting evidence that chronic exposure to low levels of pesticides is linked to childhood cancers, asthma, lower IQs, ADHD and autism.

Some ways to address these issues are: requiring mandatory IPM for all schools, daycare facilities, public parks and sports fields; parental notification of applications and spraying setbacks; IPM training of all applicators so they are aware of alternatives to increase safety.

3. Old people and disabled people need special protection and areas where they live and spend time need to be subject to the same kind of extra caution as applied to children.
4. A public data base of all pesticide application information needs to be created to allow effective enforcement, medical epidemiology studies, and environmental assessment. Currently there is no such data publically available and these assessments are impossible to conduct.
5. Current law has inadequate insurance/bonding requirements for commercial applicators; and the fines and penalties/sanctions for illegal acts are currently too small to be meaningful deterrents. These need to be increased to have an impact.
6. State preemption of local governments to improve on pesticide regulation beyond what state and EPA require should be rescinded. Local communities have the right to make decisions regarding the health and safety of their communities. Local public officials need to be able to reflect community concerns and values regarding pesticide use.
7. All of these elements need to be included to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Colorado. Thank you.

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