



Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

## MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

### *Prohibit Pesticide Use at Children's Camps*

**S.4478A – Brouk**

**A.528A – Paulin**

**An Act** to amend the public health law and environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the use of pesticides at children's overnight or summer day camps.

#### **Justification**

Children are more susceptible to the dangers of pesticide exposure than adults, due to their small size, developing bodies, and closer proximity to the ground during normal play. The U.S. EPA, National Academy of Sciences, and American Public Health Association, recognize the danger that exposure to pesticides pose to children's health, and all recommend eliminating these exposures wherever possible. Childhood exposure to pesticides has been linked to pediatric cancers, endocrine disruptions, decreased cognitive functions, and behavioral problems.

The Child Safe Playing Fields Act has been essential in protecting children from exposure to toxic pesticides at schools and day care centers for a decade. However, the risk remains when children are at playgrounds, athletic and playing fields while at summer and overnight camps. Research has shown that even in small amounts, exposure to pesticides can have long-term negative impacts on children.

New York has already enacted anti-pesticide laws for schools and must expand this protection to children's summer and overnight camps. This bill would prohibit the application of pesticides to any playground, athletic or playing fields at overnight and summer day camps. Enacting this legislation would ensure that children can safely play in a pesticide-free environment and enjoy nature without the threat of long-term negative health effects.

#### **Summary of Provisions**

- No covered camp shall apply pesticide to any playground, athletic or playing fields except for when need for emergency application is required.
- Property on publicly owned or publicly leased property in a city with a population of more than 1 million is exempt.
- Extends existing guidance on pesticide alternatives to summer camps.
- Takes effect 180 days after becoming law.

**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS**

**S.4478A / A.528A –Prohibit Pesticide Use at Children's Camps**

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*CCE is a 120,000-member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment.*

May 21, 2021