

My name is _____ and I am parent of _____ who attend _____ School in the _____ District. My children have or had (multiple food allergies, asthma and autism symptoms, autoimmune issues and one is chemically sensitive). My husband and I never had these issues. We believe these health issues are caused by the over exposure of chemicals in our food and environment. For instance, we feed our children organic food and their health issues have improved but when the _____ school district landscapers sprayed Roundup last spring on the hills of _____ School our son had his first asthma attack. Our children are being exposed to thousands of toxic chemicals and we believe that the _____ has an opportunity to reduce that exposure and support a reversal of the rise of childhood illness.

The most widely used herbicide, glyphosate based herbicides such as Roundup and Rodeo, was sprayed on _____ school grounds this past week, right where our children play, park their bikes and eat lunch. Many parents, including our principal want this spraying to stop.

It is urgent that we address this issue now. 1 out of 2 of our children in America now have a chronic illness, including autism, allergies, autoimmune issues, asthma, obesity and diabetes. Studies have linked glyphosate to these issues because it is a patented antibiotic and destroys the gut bacteria. The gut bacteria is where 70% of the immune system lies. When our children's immune systems are compromised, of course they will get sick more often. This impacts our families, their potential and the school budgets.

Glyphosate also breaks down the blood brain barrier and allows toxins into the brain, reducing IQ and learning abilities.

Glyphosate is also a chelator which leads to mineral deficiency and the inability to prevent cancer. The World Health Organization and the Cal EPA have deemed glyphosate a carcinogen. It is also an endocrine disruptor which means it can change our children's sex hormones and cause developmental delays. New studies show Roundup causes liver disease. Toxic chemicals can compromise our children's future and be a life or death situation.

Grass growing around a playground fence, however is not. I am here to ask the CUSD to put a hold on needlessly spraying these toxic chemicals on school yards and sports fields. We request this subject of alternative weed control to be put on the agenda at the next possible meeting. In the meantime, although it is too late for my children's school, I am here to ask that you please discontinue spraying and look into the science which has shown that glyphosate based herbicides are harmful. In particular, I would ask that you consider that the manufacturers, who claim that these herbicides are safe, rely on the assessment of the EPA. However the EPA's approval system is massively misleading. The fact is that the EPA does not require tests of the final formulation of Roundup or Rodeo. They only require safety studies of one declared "active" chemical ingredient. So the final formulation, as it is used in our community is completely unproven to be safe. There are, however hundreds of new studies to show that glyphosate herbicides are harmful. So again, I ask you to please put a hold on the spraying now and put alternative weed control on the agenda and protect our children.

3 mins

Additional Points other parents who attend can read during their 3 minutes:

ILLEGAL SPRAYING: In 2016, the EPA has confirmed that regarding glyphosate based herbicides and all products, the label for directions on the pesticide bottles is law. Meaning it is illegal to not follow the directions on the label. On the label for glyphosate based herbicides it says “Keep people and pets away until dried.” This means, according to the directions for the workers, 4 hours. The current practice is to spraying glyphosate based herbicides by hand or with a truck and just spray and keep moving. Within seconds, a child or pet can walk into the sprayed area. No cones are set up, no barricade to keep small children away. Not even a sign, which would not be useful for pets, blind or children anyway, but the point is that nothing is done to keep people and pets away.

Parents have reported to us that within second of being exposed to a plume of chemical spray drift, their children have experienced immediate neurotoxic effects. Pets develop rashes, behavioral issues, tumors and cancer. Glyphosate based herbicides are sprayed on playground and park grass, sidewalks, curbs, near waterways , and on streets where children, elderly, citizens and pets walk minutes afterwards. This is illegal and the city or school district could be sued for this practice. We are concerned, with the growing number of lawsuits for harm from Roundup, which is well over 500 now and expected to be 5000 this year alone, that the school district could be sued for misuse and impact our education resources.

The fact is that if spraying is done, the law must be followed and a field or sidewalk must be barricaded in such a way as animals and children cannot wander into the sprayed area for at least 4 hours.

The expense to set up barricades everywhere that Glyphosate based herbicides are sprayed would seem to be prohibitive. We prefer that you stop spraying altogether and use alternatives instead.

BEE EXTINCTION and Wildlife: Birds, bees, fish and wildlife also get exposed to these chemicals which have been proven to kill insects and birds. Our bees are now on the endangered species list, many are near extinction. 1 out of 3 bites of food are dependant on pollinators.

Albert Einstein said: *“If the bee disappeared off the face of the Earth, man would only have four years left to live.”*

CA is the largest agricultural state in America, our economy and the nourishment of our nation depends 30% on the bees in our state. If we continue killing them by spraying toxins, we are in fact, driving the nation in to economic and food security ruin.

90% of the pesticide runoff that pollutes the water comes from urban use, such as spraying our schools, sidewalks and sports fields. The chemicals take years to biodegrade and glyphosate can remain viable for 315 days in the ocean. Meanwhile, they are endocrine disruptors, which means they cause sex hormone changes. Fish off the coast of Malibu, the NY Hudson river, and rivers near Virginia were tested and 50-70% of the male fish were growing ovaries. Male frogs were driven to mate with each-other when exposed to herbicides. What happens to our children when they bathe and swim in these waters, or eat these fish and chemicals?

The spraying of glyphosate means that the particles will also dissipate in heat, water molecules will collect around them, and they will fall down as rain states away. New pesticides recently sprayed in Texas were found in NY two weeks later. So spraying Roundup in our school doesn't just impact our children, but could impact your grandmother's garden in Utah.

We must stop spraying toxic chemicals!

ALTERNATIVES: The fact is that we do not need to spray these toxic chemicals. There are many alternatives which have been used for thousands of years and several new methods which are also very effective. If you put this subject on the agenda, we can go into more detail, but to mention a few:

1. FREE Mulch! Green waste is the number one landfill in America. We have the opportunity to grind up the green waste, free to us, reduce landfill, and have free mulch to prevent weeds instead of toxic chemicals.
2. Permaculture. Planting native drought resistant ground cover prevents unwanted vegetation for years, reducing labor costs.
3. Tending the soil. Testing and tending the soil prevents overgrowth of bacteria or fungus which could promote the proliferation of certain weeds. Rich soil also increases the sequestration of carbon in the soil, reducing climate change.
4. Goats are often used around the world to eat weeds and can be rented. <http://www.ocregister.com/2014/01/17/goats-on-the-graze/>
5. Safe Steam Weed control- Weedtechnics for instance, has steam weed machines which actually improves the microbes in the soil while ridding areas of unwanted weeds. <http://www.weedtechnics.com/>
Mention SAFE4KIDS
6. Community service- many Scout groups need projects. Pulling weeds is beneficial exercise, a good bonding experience for the community and fosters neighborhood pride.

Hand pulling and Weedwacking- is being used in the counties or school districts of Marin County, Burbank, Glendale, Laguna Beach, San Juan Capistrano, Irvine and Mission Viejo to name a few instead of toxic chemicals. These take the same amount of time and less toxins.

EPA FRAUD: You may not consider the chemicals that are being used as toxic, you may even consider them completely safe. Due to the trust we are supposed to be able to place in our EPA, I understand this. However it is simply not factual, not based on sound science, to consider the pesticides being sprayed from planes, over our water, parks, backyard gardens and school yards, to be safe. Here are a few reasons why:

1. The EPA does not require long-term animal studies showing the safety of the the final formulation of these pesticides. They only require studies on one declared "active" ingredient (they are all active), not the final formulation. Everyone knows that when you put more than one chemical together, there is a different impact. This means that any claim, from the EPA or manufacturer, that these chemical pesticides are safe, is unfounded. There is no evidence to prove safety and therefore must not be used in our community.

2. Any studies the chemical companies have commissioned lack scientific integrity because it has been proven that the lab animals, including the control groups, were fed lab chow that was contaminated with toxic chemicals. When health issues showed up in both groups, the chemicals companies could claim there was no substantial difference in exposure the chemicals in question.

3. In at least one case (therefore we can validly question of there are more) the EPA has allowed one form of a chemical to be tested (ie: esthers or salts) and a completely different form (glycine) to be used in the chemical products. This bait and switch is unethical and potentially extremely harmful- just a sodium chloride is very different from sodium cyanide.

4. The dose does not make the poison. The EPA allows 800 endocrine disruptors which are banned in most EU countries. Endocrine disruptors, often found in pesticides, are extremely harmful, and can halt life, at nano

particles, because of the timing of exposure. The very small amount of the poison can replace hormones and halt or harm the development of life, including human babies. So to tell residents that it is only a very small amount being sprayed, could in fact mean more harm to a pregnant woman than a large amount. Any amount of toxin is unacceptable

5. In fact, there are hundreds of studies to show by non-profits such as Beyond Pesticides and PANNA that the pesticides being used are neurotoxins, endocrine disruptors, carcinogens, and cause serious organ damage and death.

- 1 out of 2 of our children in America having a chronic illness,
- 1 out of 2 males and 1 out of 3 females are expected to get cancer in the US,
- 1 out of 3 young couples are experiencing infertility
- 1 out of 5 with mental illness and 1 out of 6 children have learning disabilities
- 1 out of 10 with non-alcoholic liver disease
- Roundup, the most widely used herbicide in the world - considered SAFE for 40 years- has recently been PROVEN to CAUSE liver disease.
- In 16 years, by 2032, 1 out of 2 of the children born will be diagnosed with autism. 50% of our population will not be able to care for themselves or later in life, for their parents.

All of these health issues can be directly linked to the exposure of toxins in the environment.

We simply cannot afford to continue to use toxic chemicals, for any reason, in our communities. Historically, it has been shown that we do not need to either. Other preventative methods are effective. For hundreds of thousands of years, we have lived with insects. Only in the past 20-40 years have we used man made chemical poisons to fight them. We have ingenious people in our state leadership who can find ways to not poison

ourselves and continue to survive insects, but we will not survive as a human race when more than half our population is incapacitated due to toxins.

We are providing just a few of many studies of the most widely used glyphosate herbicide in the world - 1.4 billion pounds used per year- if they allow this to be used and it is this harmful, how can we trust that any other chemical product to be safe? We cannot. We must stop using toxic chemicals.

Thank you for being courageous and helping us to stop the poisoning of America.