

Resolution in Support of H.926, "An Act relative to improving pesticide protections for Massachusetts schoolchildren"

Whereas the health and safety of the children of Somerville is of the utmost importance to the Somerville School Committee, as is the well-being of children throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and

Whereas many Massachusetts schools and child care centers permit the use of toxic pesticides on outdoor grounds, including glyphosate and 2,4-D, potentially endangering children's health, and Whereas children absorb more pesticides relative to their body weight than adults, and children's organ systems are still developing and are less able to detoxify harmful chemicals, and in 2012 the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) called for governments to reduce children's exposure to pesticides, writing that scientific evidence demonstrates associations between early life exposure to pesticides and pediatric cancers, decreased cognitive function, and behavioral problems." and Whereas a bill currently proposed at the Massachusetts State Legislature, H.926, "An Act relative to improving pesticide protections for Massachusetts schoolchildren", would allow only pesticides considered minimum risk by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and those permitted for organic use to be used near schools and child care centers in Massachusetts, except in the case of a health emergency when school officials could apply for a waiver, similar to laws passed by the State of New York in 2010 and by the State of Connecticut in 2015, and

Whereas this bill is endorsed by a growing coalition of environmental, health and community advocacy organizations, including the Center for Biological Diversity, Climate Action Now Western Massachusetts, the Conservation Law Foundation, Massachusetts Forest Watch, the Massachusetts Sierra Club, MASSPIRG, Mothers Out Front Massachusetts, the Northeast Organic Farming Association, and the Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts, therefore be it

Resolved that the Somerville School Committee supports H.926, "An Act relative to improving pesticide protections for Massachusetts schoolchildren" and will send a copy of this motion to the State Delegation and Governor Baker.