

School Pesticide Monitor

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Beyond Pesticides / National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides
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Education Conference Committee Kills School Pesticide Amendment

Thanks to all for your hard work and support. SEPA could not have gotten as far as it did without you!

The Education Conference Committee voted down the *School Environment Protection Act* (SEPA) after a heated debate between the bill's prime sponsor Sen. Torricelli (D-NJ), conferee supporter Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ), and opponent and member of the House Agriculture Committee, Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA). The action by the Education Conference Committee represented the unraveling of a historic agreement between environmentalists and the chemical industry occurring in May.

Environmentalists and Sen. Torricelli contend that the pesticide industry renege on the agreement it signed off on and supported before a unanimous consent Senate vote in June. Throughout Conference deliberations, the legislation was actively supported by the National Pest Management Association and a coalition of environmental, public health, parent and teacher organizations, spearheaded by Beyond Pesticides.

The vote in committee was close, losing by only one vote. All Democratic Senators and one Republican Senator voted in favor; all House Republicans, with the exception of one abstention, voted no and all House Democrats voted yes. "Children, teachers and school staff deserve the basic health and safety protections that this measure would provide," said Jay Feldman, Beyond Pesticides' Executive Director.

Conference Votes on the *School Environmental Protection Act*

VOTING YES:

Senators (14): Kennedy (D-MA), Dodd (D-CT), Harkin (D-IA), Mikulski (D-MD), Jeffords (I-VT), Bingaman (D-NM), Wellstone (D-MN), Murray (D-WA), Reed (D-RI), Edwards (D-NC), Clinton (D-NY), Lieberman (D-CT), Bayh (D-IN), DeWine (R-OH)

Representatives (6): Miller (D-7th CA), Kildee (D-9th MI), Owens (D-11th NY), Mink (D-2nd HI), Andrews (D-1st NJ), Roemer (D-3rd IN)

VOTING NO:

Senators (11): Gregg (R-NH), Frist (R-TN), Enzi (R-WY), Hutchinson (R-AR), Warner (R-VA), Bond (R-MO), Roberts (R-KS), Collins (R-ME), Sessions (R-AL), Allard (R-CO), Ensign (R-NV)

Representatives (8): Boehner (R-8th OH), Petri (R-6th WI), McKeon (R-25th CA), Castle (R-At large DE), Mink (D-2nd HI), Graham (R-3rd SC), Hilleary (R-4th TN), Isakson (R-6th GA)

ABSTENTION: Rep. Roukema (R-5th NJ)

Senator Edward M. Kennedy Speaks Out for SEPA

Excerpts from Senator Kennedy's statement, made at a November 27, 2001 Press Conference in Washington, DC.

"In recent weeks, the nation has been gripped by the fear of biological and chemical attack. But, every day in schools across the nation, children are exposed to dangerous pesticides that can make them sick.

...We know that in too many school districts across the country, untrained people are making critical decisions day in and day out about the use of pesticides in school buildings and on school grounds.

...We know from sad and harsh experience the dangerous consequences for children from exposure to lead in paint.

We shouldn't have to learn these lessons again for the exposure of children to dangerous pesticides.

...We cannot allow schools to be chemical death traps for our children for our children. If their schools make them sick, no measure of education reform will improve their learning.

... It is long past time for Congress to take this important step to protect schools and classrooms from the dangerous use of pesticides."

For Sen. Kennedy's full statement, contact Beyond Pesticides or see www.beyondpesticides.org.

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**Mark your calendar! Beyond Pesticides' 20th Annual National Pesticide Forum is April 25-27 in Seattle!
Keep an eye on your mailbox for upcoming information!**

COCKROACH CONTROL

How to prevent and control cockroaches in schools.

PREVENTION

- ↪ Caulk, weather-strip, and repair any holes larger than 1/16" around water pipes, baseboards, electrical fixtures, outlets, switches, doors, and windows.
- ↪ Put screens over windows, vents, floor and sink drains.
- ↪ Eliminate old newspapers, magazines, paper bags, etc. . .
- ↪ Stack woodpiles away from the building, and keep the outside of the building clean of trash and leaves.
- ↪ Inspect all bags, baskets or boxes of food brought into the house.
- ↪ Store food in tightly sealed containers or in a refrigerator.
- ↪ Do not leave food, crumbs, or trash uncovered, dirty dishes sitting out, or pet food out overnight.
- ↪ Clean all spills immediately, wipe all counters and tables after use, and be sure to keep the stove grease free, as well as food free.
- ↪ Use trash cans with tight-fitting lids and avoid placing trash cans under sinks.
- ↪ Rinse food and drink containers before throwing them away or recycling them, and empty trash and recycling frequently.
- ↪ Fix leaky faucets and drains and insulate pipes to prevent condensation.
- ↪ Avoid soaking dishes overnight, place sponges and dishrags in an airtight container, and avoid overwatering plants.

MONITOR

- ↪ Once a month, place two sticky traps per room where roaches would be traveling (where floor meets wall or countertop, inside cupboards, under sink, behind appliances) and leave them for 24 hours.

CONTROL

- ↪ If you discover a cockroach problem, boric acid is the most effective direct control method. Apply boric acid (a 99% formulation) to cracks and crevices where roaches hide—inside and behind cabinets and appliances, wall cavities, under the sink, etc. . . Roaches are killed in three to ten days. **Use boric acid with care, and keep it away from children and pets.**
- ↪ Dessicating dust, such as diatomaceous earth or silica gel, can be blown into voids through small holes drilled into the walls. Be sure to choose a dust that is **not mixed with a pyrethrin. Also, use these products with care, as they can cause respiratory irritation if inhaled.**

For more information about cockroach control, contact Beyond Pesticides.

Students Run the Show in Detroit School

You know that schools are giving pesticides the boot and adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policies, but did you also know that some schools take it a step further? The students are conducting the pest control! It sounds impossible, seeing that most kids won't pick up their bedroom, but it's true and it works.

At Lewis Cass Technical High School, a magnet high school in Detroit, MI, the students run the schoolwide pest-control science project using IPM. The program can be traced back four years to a science fair project in which a chemistry class tried to help a homeowner whose house was infested with termites. Along with a slew of non-toxic pest control methods, the students learned of, and were soon awarded with, grant money for the student-run IPM program through the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

The student IPM team inspects the school three times a week, checking traps for pests and works closely with the school's custodians and engineers to make sure the building is structurally uninviting for pests. According to Horace Parker, a facilities manager for the Detroit public schools, their IPM program has done a better job controlling pests with no more cost than the routine pesticide applications.

For more information, contact Beyond Pesticides.