MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Ban on Use of Chlorpyrifos

A.10274 - Englebright

An ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the use of chlorpyrifos

JUSTIFICATION
Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate pesticide, first introduced for sale in 1965, which works to block the enzyme cholinesterase and impairs the central nervous system, an impact also shared with the nerve gas Sarin. Chlorpyrifos is a dangerous pesticide that can damage the developing brains of children, causing reduced IQ, loss of working memory, and attention deficit disorders.

U.S. staple foods such as corn, wheat, apples and citrus are sprayed with chlorpyrifos, putting our health and environment at risk. People are exposed to chlorpyrifos through residues on food, drinking water contamination, and toxic spray drift from pesticide applications.

A growing body of evidence shows that prenatal exposure to very low levels of chlorpyrifos—levels far lower than what EPA was previously using to establish safety standards—harms babies permanently. EPA prohibited the indoor use of Chlorpyrifos in 2001, due to the unacceptable risk to children’s health. In November 2016, EPA released a revised human health risk assessment for chlorpyrifos that confirmed that there are no safe uses for the pesticide.

Despite the overwhelming scientific evidence that chlorpyrifos poses an unacceptable risk to public health, the federal government has not moved forward with a ban on chlorpyrifos. This legislation would ban the use of chlorpyrifos in New York State to protect public health.