

WHEREAS, all children are exposed to pesticides via residues on food and pesticide applications in homes, schools, and parks; and children in rural and agricultural communities are additionally exposed to agricultural pesticides that travel from nearby fields and contaminate water supplies, air or dustⁱ; and

WHEREAS, children are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of pesticide exposure as they take in more air, water and food per pound than adults, and exposure to synthetic chemicals like pesticides—even at low doses—can have significant effects during critical windows of prenatal and childhood development^{ii iii}; and

WHEREAS, rates of childhood cancer continue to rise, as do rates of autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and other developmental disabilities^{iv}, and some birth defects; and

WHEREAS, a growing body of evidence links prenatal or childhood pesticide exposure to increased risk of childhood cancers, including leukemia and brain tumors^{v vi vii}; and

WHEREAS, prenatal proximity to agricultural fields where pesticides are applied is linked with increased risks of developmental disabilities and changes in neurodevelopment, including autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, and lowered IQ^{viii ix x}; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics,^{xi} the President's Cancer Panel,^{xii} and the American Congress of Gynecologists^{xiii} have highlighted the link between pesticide exposure and harms to human health, and called for reducing exposure to pesticides to protect human health; and

WHEREAS, six of the top eight pesticides most commonly sold in Minnesota are carcinogens, three are linked with birth defects or developmental harms, and six are suspected endocrine disruptors^{xiv xv xvi}; and

WHEREAS the Minnesota Public Health Association has passed a resolution calling on policy makers and state leaders to minimize children's exposure to pesticides specifically^{xvii}

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local, county and state decisionmakers:

- Establish and enforce measures to minimize children's exposure to pesticides; and
- Set ambitious targets for pesticide use reduction in agriculture; and
- Create protective buffers around sensitive sites like schools and daycares; and
- Phase out the use of pesticides most harmful to children's health and development; and
- Create incentive programs to support farmers to reduce pesticide use; and
- Collect and release additional data on pesticide sales and/or use in Minnesota, including creating a publicly searchable pesticide use database; and
- Improve tracking of illnesses related to pesticide exposure by making pesticide-related illness and injury a reportable disease, and allocating funding to create a Department of Health Pesticide Illness Monitoring and Prevention Program to do surveillance and outreach.

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- ^{xiii} American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Committee Opinion, Exposure to Toxic Environmental Agents. October 2013, Number 575, reaffirmed 2016.
- ^{xiv} MN Department of Agriculture sales data, http://www2.mda.state.mn.us/webapp/lis/chemsold_default.jsp.
- ^{xv} Pesticide Action Network, Pesticide database <http://www.pesticideinfo.org>
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