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Good afternoon. I'm Emily Marquez, I have a Ph.D. in biology and I'm a staff scientist at Pesticide Action Network. I'm speaking in support of Bill HF 670, which would ban the neurotoxic pesticide chlorpyrifos.

In Minnesota, through my organization I have done air monitoring with people in rural communities, where we test air samples for evidence of pesticide drift. Bonnie Wirtz is one of our community partners who did air monitoring the year after she was drifted on and poisoned by chlorpyrifos in her own home. When she did air monitoring at her house, she found levels of chlorpyrifos in the air that well exceeded levels of concern, according to US EPA.

But "levels of concern" is too simple a term. What exposure to chlorpyrifos really means for children is disruption of their brain development. These effects include decreased IQ scores and impaired cognitive, behavioral, and social development in children. These effects on children's brains will likely last a lifetime because the human brain doesn't have much capacity to repair itself. This is too great a consequence for us to ask people to bear, in order to keep on using this dangerous pesticide.

People eating produce can get exposed to chlorpyrifos through residues on their food, at levels that have been shown to result in injury to the brain. Chlorpyrifos is authorized for use on nearly 50 crops, including food like fruits, vegetables and nuts that are heavily consumed by children. In addition, chlorpyrifos residues are found regularly by USDA testing of food crops imported to the US.

We have more than enough scientific evidence to ban chlorpyrifos, and have known enough for over 20 years. Thank you.