

News From Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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May 19, 2005  
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SOLIS, BISHOP AMENDMENT TO STOP UNETHICAL TESTING OF PESTICIDES ON HUMANS  
PASSES

WASHINGTON, D.C.-Today, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32), Ranking Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, and Congressman Timothy H. Bishop (NY-01) offered an amendment to the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2006. The amendment would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from using funds in fiscal year 2006 to conduct or accept from industry studies that test pesticides on humans. The amendment passed on a voice vote.

"I am appalled that EPA- the agency in charge of protecting public health from environmental toxins- encourages the pesticide industry to use human beings as guinea pigs without binding safeguards to protect public health. This amendment is necessary to stop this unethical testing and protect public health," said Congresswoman Solis.

"We all want to understand how common chemicals like those found under the kitchen sink might harm our children, but the way to collect that information should not involve hurting the very people we want to protect," Congressman Tim Bishop stated. "Public health must be made a priority over the pesticide industry's profit margin," Bishop added. Bishop represents the 1st Congressional District of New York.

Because of stricter standards passed by the Food Quality Protection act of 1996, the pesticide industry is under pressure to reduce the risks of pesticides to infants and children. Rather than reduce risks though, the pesticide industry has developed a strategy to bypass these regulatory safeguards for infants and children by intentionally dosing humans with pesticides and submitting these tests to EPA for use in the regulatory process.

The amendment is supported by a coalition of religious groups including the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Presbyterian Church and the United Methodist Church. It is also supported by more than 15 national environmental and public health organizations, including the Center for Health, Environment and Justice, the Environmental Working Group, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Southern Poverty Law Center and the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health.