



TESTIMONY

OF

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SENIOR POLICY ASSOCIATE,
HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH**

**PRESENTED TO THE
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**REGARDING THE
PROPOSED RULE AMENDMENT PERTAINING TO EMISSIONS**

FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Good Morning. My name is Joan Siegel and I am the Senior Policy Associate for Health and Mental Health at Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (CCC). CCC is a 67- year old privately supported, independent, multi-issue child advocacy organization, dedicated to ensuring every New York child is healthy, housed, educated and safe. CCC does not accept or receive public resources, provide direct services, or represent a sector or workforce. For 67 years CCC has undertaken public policy research, community education and advocacy efforts to draw attention to children and their needs so that we can advance budget, legislative, and policy priorities that are cost-effective and produce better outcomes for New York's youngest residents. I would like to thank the New York City Department of Environmental Protection for this opportunity to testify on the Proposed Amendments to Chapter 2 of Title 15 of the Rules of the City of New York pertaining to emissions from the use of #4 and #6 fuel in oil heat and hot water boilers and burners.

Citizens' Committee for Children supports the City's prohibition on the use of fuels that degrade air quality through the emission of harmful pollutants such as particulate mater, oxides of nitrogen and nickel. In 2009, the City released the results of the winter of 2008-2009 monitoring of air quality. The report stated that particulate matter – fine particles released into the air from sources including furnaces and burners, get into the lungs, inflaming them, “worsen[ing] lung and heart diseases, resulting in hospital admissions and even death[.]”¹

Reducing harmful pollutants in the air is critical to the health of children. The number one cause of preventable hospitalizations in 2008 for children ages 1 to 14 is asthma.² For babies, the number one cause of preventable hospitalization in 2008 was acute respiratory infection.³ In 2008, East Tremont in the Bronx had one of the highest particulate matter concentrations⁴ and at 9.0/1000, double the citywide rate of 4.6/1000 for pediatric asthma.⁵ Similarly in 2008, Tottenville (CD 03) in Staten Island had one of the lowest particulate matter concentrations⁶ and,

¹ NYC Health Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, *The New York City Community Air Survey: Results from Winter Monitoring 2008-2009* (2009) at 8 (hereinafter *Community Air Survey*).

² Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc., *Keeping Track of New York City's Children* (New York 2010) at 121 (hereinafter *Keeping Track*).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Community Air Survey* at 15.

⁵ *Keeping Track* at 119.

⁶ *Community Air Survey* at 15.

at .0.9/1000, less than 20% the citywide rate of pediatric asthma.⁷ Rules that reduce harmful pollutants in the air will benefit the children in the areas that most need such reduction.

In closing, we ask you to approve the rule changes proposed. Reducing the amount of particulate matter in the air by regulating that cleaner burning fuel be utilized in oil heat and hot water boilers and burners will improve health outcomes for all New Yorkers, particularly children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

⁷ *Keeping Track* at 119.