



**County  
Health Officials  
of New York**  
Leading the way to healthier communities

# SUPPORTS

## **A.528-A/S4478-A (Paulin/Brouk)**

### **AN ACT to amend the public health law and the environmental conservation law, in relation to prohibiting the use of pesticides at children's overnight or summer day camp**

The New York State Association of County Health Officials supports the above-referenced legislation in relation to the use of pesticides at children's camps.

People may be exposed to a variety of pesticides daily, at home, work or in schools and places of recreation. There are multiple routes of exposure, including ingestion through eating, drinking, breathing and skin contact. The effects of pesticides on human health may include irritation of the skin or eyes, impacts on the nervous or endocrine systems, and increased cancer risk. There are several factors that influence health risks, including toxicity, amount, duration, and route of exposure. Pesticides pose a greater risk to children of illness or injury and longer-term health effects, including brain development.

New York State prohibits the application of pesticides by schools and daycares on playgrounds, artificial turf, or athletic or playing schools. Children's camps, however, largely do not fall under this prohibition. This proposal would extend the existing prohibitions to children's summer camps, where children often spend significant periods in these outdoor areas. There are times, however, when a public health threat poses a enough risk to campers to warrant an emergency application of pesticides. An example of these instances might be the application of adulticides to reduce mosquito populations if diseases such as West Nile Virus or Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) are present.

NYSACHO believe this legislation balances protection of children from the potential short and long-term effects of pesticides, with a process to ensure pesticide application be allowed should a greater immediate public health risk be identified. NYSACHO therefore supports this legislation and recommends it be enacted into law.

NYSACHO Contact: Sarah Ravenhall, Executive Director, [sarah@nysacho.org](mailto:sarah@nysacho.org)