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**COUNCILMEMBER CHEH SCHEDULES HEARING TOMORROW,
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, ON COUNCILMEMBER BOWSER'S BILL TO
REQUIRE COMPANIES TO WARN
RESIDENTS ABOUT DANGERS OF PESTICIDES**

DISTRICT FAMILY BECAME ILL AFTER TERMITE TREATMENT AT HOME

(Washington, D.C.) Ward 3 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh's Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs is scheduled **tomorrow, Wednesday January 16, at 10 a.m.** to hold a hearing on Councilmember Muriel Bowser's bill that would require pesticide applicators to provide information to prospective customers concerning the types of pesticides to be used and also to provide safety information about those pesticides.

Ward 4 Councilmember Bowser introduced the bill after a Ward 4 resident had pesticide applied in her home several years ago to address a termite infestation. In such situations, holes are drilled into the foundation of the home, pesticide is inserted into the holes and the holes are capped to prevent the pesticide from leaking into the home. In this case, the pesticide operator failed to place caps on many of the holes and the pesticide leaked out, resulting in the resident, her husband, daughter and son becoming severely ill.

Since then, she has lobbied for better notification and other measures so that other families do not suffer the same fate. Maryland already has a similar law. Although the resident is elderly and is unable to attend the hearing, Council Member Cheh will read a statement from the victim.

"It is not unreasonable for people to assume that companies would not spray chemicals that would harm them or make them ill," Councilmember Cheh said. "Apparently, we should not take that for granted. Pesticide companies must be held accountable."

"I am pleased to introduce the Pesticide Consumer Notification Amendment Act of 2007. This legislation will take meaningful action to regulate the application of pesticides in residents' homes throughout the District of Columbia. Informed consumers are better able to protect themselves from pesticide contamination that can do permanent harm to them and their families," Councilmember Bowser said.

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