Introduced By:  Nassau County Medical Society

Subject:  Ban on the use of Paraquat

Referred to:  Reference Committee on Public Health and Education

Whereas, Paraquat is a herbicide used to control a very broad range of weeds and other unwanted plants in more than 100 crops; and

Whereas, the US Environmental Protection Agency classifies Paraquat as a "restricted use" pesticide meaning that it can be used only by people who are licensed applicators; and

Whereas, Paraquat is highly toxic to animals and has serious and irreversible delayed effects if absorbed and as little as one teaspoonful of the active ingredient is fatal, with death occurring up to 30 days after ingestion; and

Whereas, while banned in 32 countries worldwide, it continues to be manufactured internationally for sale in the United States, where its use is actually on the rise; and

Whereas, in 2011, a US National Institutes of Health study showed a link between Paraquat use and Parkinson's disease in farm workers; a co-author of the paper said that "people who used paraquat, or other pesticides with a similar mechanism of action, were more likely to develop Parkinson's" Paraquat-induced toxicity in rats has also been linked to Parkinson's-like neurological degenerative mechanisms; a study by the Buck Institute for Research on Aging showed a connection between exposure to Paraquat and iron in infancy and mid-life Parkinson's in laboratory mice; a 2013 meta-analysis published in Neurology found that 'exposure to paraquat ... was associated with about a 2-fold increase in risk' of Parkinson's disease; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that MSSNY seek state legislation to permanently ban the use of Paraquat in all forms in New York State, and be it further

RESOLVED, the MSNNY take this resolution to the AMA at its annual House of Delegates meeting in June, 2017, asking the AMA for appropriate legislation to permanently ban the use of Paraquat in all forms in the United States.

References:


Pezzoli, Gianni; Cereda, Emanuele (2013). "Exposure to pesticides or solvents and risk of Parkinson disease". Neurology. 80 (22): 2035–2041.