

Memorandum of Support Child Safe Products Act

Alliance @ IBM
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Sustainable Bus. Council
Arbor Hill Environmental Justice Corp.
Association of Comparative and Environmental Toxicology Students
Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester
Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes
Capital Region Action Against Breast Cancer
Center for Environmental Health
Center for Health, Environment & Justice
Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Citizens For A Clean Environment
Clean Air Coalition
Clean and Healthy New York
Clean Production Action
Coalition to End Lead Poisoning
Comm. Workers of America Loc 1701
Community Action Organization – Center for Environmental Justice
Community Health & Environment Coalition of Long Island
Earthjustice
Empire State Consumer Project
Environmental Advocates of New York
Env. Justice Action Group of WNY
Faces of Astarte
Garrison Institute
Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition
Greenpeace USA – NY Chapter
Healthy Schools Network
Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition
Inst. for Health & the Env. at SUNYA
Learning Disabilities Assn of NYS and local chapters:
Central New York
Life & Learning Services of Rochester
New York City
Southern Tier
Western New York
Wildwood Program (Cap. District)
Mira's Movement
NARAL Pro Choice New York
Natural Resources Defense Council
NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
NY Lawyers for the Public Interest
NYPIRG
NYS League of Conservation Voters
NYS Nurses Association
NYS United Teachers
Parents Against Lindane
Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes
Prevention is the Cure
Sierra Club
United Steelworkers Dist. 4
WEACT for Environmental Justice
W. Haywood Burns Env. Ed. Center

Bold indicates Steering Committee

Individuals (affiliation as ID only)

Janet Gray, PhD, Director, Science, Technology & Society, Vassar Coll.
Joseph Gardella, PhD, Chem. Professor, SUNY Buffalo
Katrina Korfmacher, PhD, Env. Health Science Center – U of R Medical Ctr.
Phillip Landrigan, MD, MSc. Community & Prev. Med, Mt. Sinai School of Med.

S.4614 (Boyle, Addabbo, Avella, Breslin, Carlucci, Diaz, Dilan, Espallat, Gianaris, Gipson, Hassell-Thompson, Hoylman, Kennedy, Krueger, Lanza, Latimer, LaValle, Martins, Montgomery, O'Brien, Parker, Peralta, Perkins, Rivera, Robach, Sampson, Sanders, Savino, Serrano, Squadron, Stavisky, Stewart-Cousins, Tkaczyk, Valesky, Young)

A.6328 (Passed Assembly March 18, 2014: Vote 111 to 25)

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to regulation of toxic chemicals in children's products

Description:

This bill will set up an infrastructure within state government to categorize chemicals of high concern, prioritize them based on the likelihood for children to be exposed to them, require disclosure by children's product manufacturers as to whether their products contain priority chemicals, and phase out priority chemicals after a reasonable transition period. Several other states, including California, Connecticut, Maine, Minnesota and Washington, have adopted and are implementing measures with similar components.

Justification:

The federal chemical management system, based on the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act, has failed to protect us from diseases, disorders and environmental damage linked to toxic chemicals in everyday products. In order to protect the public health and environment, New York must reduce the exposure of children and other vulnerable populations to chemicals of high concern by substituting safer alternatives when feasible.

Developing infants and children in particular are uniquely vulnerable to toxic chemicals. Prior to birth, children absorb hundreds of toxic chemicals that threaten their health. A study conducted by the Environmental Working Group detected 287 chemicals in umbilical cord blood, 180 of which cause cancer, 217 of which are toxic to the brain and nervous system, and 208 that cause birth defects or abnormal development in animal tests.

Chemical exposures in the womb or during infancy can be dramatically more harmful than exposures later in life. Substantial scientific evidence demonstrates that children face amplified risks from their body burden of pollution, due their greater exposure to chemicals, their rapid development and their incomplete defense systems:

Extensive scientific research has documented lifelong health impacts, including cancer, allergies, reproductive organ malformation, infertility, and neurological damage, that can result from exposure to certain chemicals as a fetus, infant or young child. The societal costs of these health problems include increased burden on the health care system and school systems, decreased productivity, and personal tragedies.

Current laws and regulations fail to adequately address chemicals of high concern in products. The state of New York must act to significantly reduce the harm to its residents from chemicals of high concern. New York State can have a significant impact by requiring chemical use disclosure, and phasing out toxic chemicals in children's products when safer alternatives are available.

The JustGreen Partnership, a diverse collaboration of fifty organizations representing over a million New Yorkers, strongly supports this bill as a common-sense approach to protecting developing babies and children from toxic chemicals.