



Pass the Healthy Kids Bill – LD 1811

No Child Should Be Exposed to Chemicals that cause Cancer, Obesity, or Reproductive Problems

Children's health is threatened everyday by unsafe chemicals in their homes, like phthalates in toys and shower curtains, parabens in soaps and lotions, and BPA in food packaging.

Parents and businesses are left in the dark about which household products are safe for their children because manufacturers aren't required to test chemicals for safety or disclose what chemicals are in most products.

The cost of chemical exposure is staggering – **and it's preventable**. A University of Maine study estimates that just four environmentally-related diseases result in over \$380 million in annual health costs for Maine families and businesses.

Maine has started to take action on BPA, but there is no plan to deal with the 49 other toxic chemicals that Maine has identified as endangering children. Last year, Maine named 49 Chemicals of High Concern, proven through strong scientific evidence to cause cancer, reproductive problems, and hormone disruption. But no action has been proposed to reduce exposure to these chemicals – until now.

The Healthy Kids Bill (LD 1181) will establish the next steps needed to protect Maine children from the most dangerous chemicals. The Healthy Kids Bill, sponsored by Senator Goodall, will identify which products contain the 49 "worst of the worst" chemicals and set priorities for action to get those chemicals out of household products that Maine children encounter every day.

The Healthy Kids Bill will:

- Help parents and businesses get good information by identifying which products contain the 49 Chemicals of High Concern. Parents and businesses have a right to know which products are safe for their kids and their customers - and which are not.
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- Jumpstart action on the worst chemicals. Only two chemicals have been prioritized for action since 2008. This bill would provide legislative direction to ensure we keep making progress toward safer products. It would identify alternatives to the most harmful chemicals and phase out unnecessary uses of priority chemicals when there are safer, affordable alternatives available.
 - Close the loophole that leaves pregnant women and older children exposed to toxic BPA in their food. The original Kid-Safe Products Act contains an exemption that blocks regulation of BPA and other chemicals in food packaging, unless the food is intentionally marketed to children under age three. This bill would repeal that arbitrary exemption, and give Maine the authority to consider phasing out the use of BPA in all food packaging.

Maine's Kid-Safe Products Act is popular and effective. It passed almost unanimously in 2008 and was amended unanimously in 2011. But all of the requirements have now been successfully completed. Unless more legislative direction is provided, no additional state action to protect children and pregnant women from toxic chemicals in household products is required or anticipated. We need to take the next steps to protect Maine children from the

**Maine children need more than a list of harmful chemicals.
They need action for safer products!**

Protect Maine Kids. Vote "Yes" on LD 1811 – the Healthy Kids Bill