

Kid-Safe Chemicals Act: HR 6100

A Common Sense Approach to Protecting Our Children From Toxic Chemicals

Under the current, outdated and toothless Federal law called the Toxic Substances Control Act, chemicals are allowed on the market with virtually no safety testing and EPA has almost no powers to protect public health. As a result, babies are born with hundreds of industrial chemicals in their bodies, many of which are suspected of contributing to health problems. The Kid-Safe Chemicals Act aims to change that by requiring that all chemicals be proven safe for children before they can be sold.



CURRENT LAW

NO SAFETY ASSESSMENT REQUIRED

Companies can put virtually any chemical into any product, including baby bottles and toys, without first testing that chemical for safety.

HEALTH STUDIES KEPT SECRET

Companies use loopholes in the law to keep the few studies they do secret from the public and even state governments.

BABIES BORN PREPOLLUTED

EPA has no mandate and almost no authority to protect children from chemical exposures. As a result babies are born with over 200 chemicals in their bodies, including many known carcinogens and chemicals that harm brain development.

ALL CHEMICALS PRESUMED SAFE

When passed in 1976, TSCA assumed all 62,000 chemicals on the market were safe, without requiring a single test. More than 30 years later industry is still not required to prove the safety of any chemical to gain or retain market access. EPA must prove a chemical is dangerous to restrict its use, a process that rarely happens.

NO PUBLIC HEALTH MANDATE

Even though industrial chemicals known to cause cancer, reproductive harm, and neuro-developmental problems have been found in people, the government is not required to take any action to protect human health.

HUMAN EXPOSURES NOT MONITORED

Chemicals escape scrutiny because neither the government nor industry is required to run regular tests to determine what toxic chemicals are in people. Ignorance equals safety under current law.

KID-SAFE

PROOF OF SAFETY FIRST

The chemical industry must first prove chemicals used in everyday products are safe for infants, children and other vulnerable groups before being used in products we buy and use every day.

ALL STUDIES MADE PUBLIC

Thorough assessments of chemical risks are required and all health and safety data are made available to the public in a centralized on line database.

HEALTH OF INFANTS TOP PRIORITY

CDC testing is required to determine chemical exposures during pregnancy and early childhood. Chemicals in babies are presumed unsafe and subject to priority review.

BURDEN ON INDUSTRY TO PROVE A CHEMICAL'S SAFETY

Chemicals in people, food and drinking water are put on a priority list and industry must prove safety according to a strict standard of public health protection. Failure to provide studies needed to prove safety triggers a ban on the chemical.

STRICT PUBLIC HEALTH MANDATE

EPA must move quickly to reduce or eliminate human exposure to the most dangerous chemicals. Economic considerations are not allowed to override public health concerns except when national security is at stake.

BIOMONITORING REQUIRED

Testing of human blood, urine, breast milk, and umbilical cord blood is required to determine what chemicals are in people and at what levels. Chemicals in people are subject to priority reviews.