



Safer Chemicals
Healthy Families

Lindsay Dahl

Deputy Campaign Director

Who We Are...

- **Health-affected Groups** (Autism Society of America, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Breast Cancer Fund...)
- **Health Professionals** (American Nurses Association, Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, Mt. Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center...)
- **National and State Environmental Groups** (NRDC, EDF, Washington Toxics Coalition, Clean Water Action....)
- **Environmental Justice Groups** (Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, WEACTION, Just Transition Alliance...)
- **Concerned Parents** (Momsrising.org, Learning Disabilities Association, Mom blogs)
- **Businesses** (down stream users, health care systems, manufacturers)

www.saferchemicals.org

TSCA- The Dog that Didn't Bark

The basics (by the numbers):

- **80,000** chemicals in commerce.
- Required testing on **200** in **34** years.
- **5** chemicals have been restricted.
- **18 years** since EPA tried and failed *to regulate asbestos*

Why?

- Practically ***No Authority***
 - “Unreasonable Risk” standard too burdensome
 - Burden entirely on government
- Practically ***No Information***
 - Catch 22: *EPA needs to know a chemical is bad in order to find out if it's bad*
 - Hazard and exposure information shielded from *public and market* scrutiny

☐The Results...

Public Health Failure

- Chronic disease on the rise
- Explosion of peer-reviewed studies linking common chemicals to increasingly common ailments

Market Failure

Manufacturers, retailers struggling with lack of chemical information, creating uncertainty in world market demanding safer goods.

Example: Kaiser Permanente

- From Kathy Gerwig, VP, Workplace Safety, Environmental Stewardship Officer (From February 2009 Testimony)

“In many cases, even with the purchasing power represented by Kaiser Permanente it is difficult to get the information we request.

The process requires comprehensive vendor education and aggressive demands for safety and ingredient information.

When the information is provided, it is often useless due to the vendor’s lack of knowledge, trade secret caveats or the absence of safety information for thousands of chemicals in commerce today.”

Why we need comprehensive data on all chemicals

- A core element of public right-to-know, consumers care
- “No data, no market” in place internationally
- Critical for advancing science, protecting public health
- Businesses, down stream users of chemicals need to make informed decisions
- Identify chemicals of concern and no concern

Who needs data on chemicals?

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - To identify chemicals meeting specific criteria
 - To prioritize chemicals
 - To conduct and make informed safety determinations

But the following also need data on chemicals:

- The market
- Downstream users
- State and local governments
- Consumers
- Academic and government scientists
- Workers
- The general public

What types of information is needed?

- Identifying information
- Manufacturing and processing information
- Exposure-relevant information
- Biomonitoring data
- Use information
- Post-use information
- Hazard information

Information can move economy away from hazardous chemicals

- Persistence, bioaccumulation, toxic (PBTs)
 - PCBs, lead, mercury, toxic flame retardants (PBDEs)
- Endocrine disruptors (EDCs)
 - bisphenol A, phthalates
- Carcinogens, mutagens, reproductive toxins (CMRs)
 - formaldehyde, asbestos

Moment (um) for Reform...

- **Trade Partners** demanding change/ changing
 - Europe's REACH system, Canada
- **States** step into the void
 - Maine, Washington, California and Minnesota
- Barrage of **New Science**
 - Making headlines, but nowhere to go federally
- **Marketplace** or “retail regulation”
 - Walmart caught with baby bottles it doesn't want; Staples, Kaiser, looking to weed out the bad on their own

The Safe Chemicals Act: Policy that can grant market and regulators increased access to chemical data

- The Safe Chemicals Act (Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-NJ)
S. 3209
- The Toxic Chemical Safety Act (Rep. Bobby Rush, D-IL; Rep. Henry Waxman, D-CA)

Discussion Draft

How the bills work:

- The Safe Chemicals Act (Senate version):
 - Require minimum information on all chemicals (to be determined by the Administrator)
 - Administrator shall include information on hazard, exposure, and use of chemical substances
 - Information is due when chemicals are in line for safety determination

- The Toxic Chemical Safety Act (House version)
 - Requires the Administrator to create a rule on minimum data requirements
 - Administrator shall include information on hazard, exposure, and use of chemical substances
 - Information on all chemicals is required within five years

Contact information

Lindsay Dahl

Deputy Director, Safer Chemicals Healthy Families

lindsaydahl@saferchemicals.org

202-912-8406

www.saferchemicals.org