

CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS ACT (A.5612/S.4102)

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

As business owners we would like to add our support in favor of the Child Safe Products Act.

BUSINESS LEADERS ARE CONCERNED about the health and business impacts that can arise if the products they use or sell contain toxic chemicals.

- Chemicals are released on the market without being proven safe. They come out of every-day products and get inside our bodies.
- Chemicals are found in children and even newborns. Developing babies and children are more susceptible to the effects of toxic chemicals.
- Every week, new scientific research links chemicals commonly found in household products to increased rates of asthma, childhood cancers, infertility, and learning and developmental disabilities.
- Uncertainty around chemical safety is eroding consumer confidence in a wide range of products and creating potential liability problems.
- Companies find it difficult to get useful chemical hazard information even when directly asking suppliers due to trade secret constraints and the dearth of data for most chemicals in commerce today.

BUSINESSES ARE CHANGING HOW THEY USE CHEMICALS

- Seventh Generation, Walmart, Target, Home Depot, Staples, Whole Foods, and Hewlett Packard are among the companies limiting dangerous chemicals in their stores.
- They know that safer chemicals cut the costs of regulation, hazardous waste management, and worker protection.
- In a recent poll of over 500 business owners across party lines, 90% believe chemical manufacturers should be held responsible for ensuring their chemicals are safe 75% supported stricter regulation of chemicals used in everyday products. 82% supported requiring chemical ingredient information all along the manufacturing supply chain.

- Safer chemicals help create new business opportunities and new jobs by making U.S. businesses more competitive in a global marketplace.

THE FEDERAL SYSTEM IS BROKEN

- The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), has only required testing on about 200 of the more than 82,000 chemicals that have been on, or entered the market since it was passed in 1976.
- EPA has only limited the use five chemicals since TSCA was enacted. Not even asbestos, a known carcinogen, was able to be restricted under TSCA.

THE CHILD SAFE PRODUCTS ACT HELPS BUSINESSES AND PROTECTS OUR CHILDREN

- The Child Safe Products Act (CSPA) identifies high priority chemicals, reveals their use in products for children, and removes them from these products after a transition period.
- CSPA drives the marketplace towards safer solutions, supports companies that make safer products, and restores consumer confidence.
- In 2014, the New York State Assembly passed CSPA for a third year in a row. In the Senate, 40 of 61 Senators were co-sponsors.
- Other states have similar laws. In Washington State, toxic chemicals have been reported in over 4,000 kinds of children's products.
- Chemical reporting under CSPA would be done through the Interstate Chemical Clearinghouse, allowing companies to fill out one form to comply with regulations in multiple states.

THE NEW YORK STATE SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS COUNCIL (NYSSBC)

is an emerging alliance of business organizations and businesses committed to advancing a vibrant, just, and sustainable economy in New York State. We promote practical strategies and policies that build strong local economies, incentivize investment and innovation in clean technologies and alternative energy sources, and advance the development of sustainable communities in New York State.