

Kid-Safe Chemicals Act

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Under the current, outdated and toothless federal law called the Toxic Substances Control Act, chemicals are allowed on the market with virtually no safety testing and EPA has almost no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

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.

CHEMICALS PRESUMED SAFE WITH NO DATA

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 when industrial chemicals known to cause cancer, reproductive harm, and neuro-developmental problems have been found in people, including babies, 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.

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.

PREEMPTS STATES RIGHTS

Current law prohibits state and local governments from establishing or enforcing stricter standards to protect people from chemical exposures.

KID-SAFE

HEALTH OF INFANTS TOP PRIORITY

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

NO DATA NO MARKET ACCESS

Failure to provide required health studies to the EPA triggers a ban on the chemical. Chemicals in people, food and drinking water are prioritized for testing. EPA given unrestricted authority to ask for any test it needs to evaluate a chemical's hazards.

STRICT PUBLIC HEALTH MANDATE

Chemicals must cause "no harm" to the fetus, infant and child, considering all sources of exposure. Chemicals in babies are the top priority for evaluation and control, and the most hazardous 300 chemicals must comply with the law within 5 years of enactment. Economic considerations are not allowed to override public health requirements 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.

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 online database.

PRESERVES STATES RIGHTS

The right of state and local governments to adopt and enforce any law or regulation that is more stringent than established under the Act is guaranteed.