



HR0886

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Children and pregnant women are uniquely
3 vulnerable to the health threats of toxic chemicals, and early
4 life chemical exposures have been linked to chronic disease
5 later in life; and

6 WHEREAS, A growing body of peer-reviewed scientific
7 evidence links exposure to toxic chemicals to many diseases and
8 health conditions that are rising in incidence, including
9 childhood cancers, prostate cancer, breast cancer, learning
10 and developmental disabilities, infertility, and obesity; and

11 WHEREAS, The President's Cancer Panel report released in
12 May 2010, states, "The true burden of environmentally-induced
13 cancers has been grossly underestimated," and the panel advised
14 President Barack Obama "to use the power of your office to
15 remove the carcinogens and other toxins from our food, water,
16 and air that needlessly increase health care cost, cripple our
17 nation's productivity, and devastate American lives"; and

18 WHEREAS, Workers in a range of industries are exposed to
19 toxic chemicals which pose threats to their health, increasing
20 worker absenteeism, workers' compensation claims, and health
21 care costs that burden the economy; and

1 WHEREAS, A recent national poll found that 78% of American
2 voters were seriously concerned about the threat to children's
3 health from exposure to toxic chemicals in day-to-day life; and

4 WHEREAS, States bear an undue burden from toxic chemicals,
5 including health care costs and environmental damages,
6 disadvantaging businesses that lack information on chemicals
7 in their supply chain, and increasing demands for state
8 regulation; and

9 WHEREAS, The federal Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976
10 (15 U.S.C Sec. 2601, et seq.), the primary governing federal
11 statute, was intended to authorize the United States
12 Environmental Protection Agency to protect public health and
13 the environment from toxic chemicals; and

14 WHEREAS, The federal Toxic Substances Control Act has been
15 recognized as having challenges that prevent the Environmental
16 Protection Agency from taking quick and effective regulatory
17 action to protect the public against chemical threats; and

18 WHEREAS, In January 2009, the United States General
19 Accountability Office added the Environmental Protection
20 Agency's regulatory program for assessing and controlling
21 toxic chemicals to its list of "high risk" government programs
22 that may have some deficiencies; and

1 WHEREAS, The National Conference of State Legislatures
2 unanimously adopted a resolution in July 2009, that articulated
3 principles for the reform of the Toxic Substances Control Act
4 of 1976 and called on the United States Congress to update the
5 law; and

6 WHEREAS, In August 2010, the Environmental Council of the
7 States, the national association of state environmental agency
8 directors, unanimously adopted a resolution entitled
9 "Reforming the Toxic Substance Control Act", which endorsed
10 specific policy reforms including making certain the
11 Environmental Protection Agency has adequate authority to
12 ensure existing new chemicals are safe; and

13 WHEREAS, Ten states have come together to launch the
14 Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse to coordinate state
15 chemical information management programs, and a coalition of 13
16 states issued guiding principles for the reform of the Toxic
17 Substances Control Act of 1976; and

18 WHEREAS, Seventy-one state laws on chemical safety have
19 been enacted and signed into law in 18 states with broad
20 bi-partisan support over the last 8 years; and

21 WHEREAS, The State of California's policy leadership

1 regarding chemical management is outstanding and warrants
2 close examination by Illinois and other states; and

3 WHEREAS, The Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976
4 Modernization effort presents a rare opportunity to bolster
5 sustainable innovation within the chemical sciences industry
6 to create jobs and eliminate the toxicity of older, more
7 harmful substances; and

8 WHEREAS, Legislation to substantially reform the Toxic
9 Substances Control Act of 1976 was introduced during the 109th
10 Congress in 2005, the 110th Congress in 2008, and again in the
11 111th Congress in 2010; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we support the efforts of the National Black Caucus of State
15 Legislators in their efforts to modernize the Federal Toxic
16 Substances Control Act of 1976 by strengthening chemical
17 management through policy reforms; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we urge the Governor and the General
19 Assembly to strengthen the State's chemical management
20 statutes.