



HR0060

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Children and the developing fetus are uniquely  
3 vulnerable to the health threats of toxic chemicals, and  
4 early-life chemical exposures have been linked to chronic  
5 disease 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 says "the true burden of environmentally induced  
13 cancers has been grossly underestimated", and the panel advised  
14 the President "to use the power of your office to remove the  
15 carcinogens and other toxins from our food, water, and air that  
16 needlessly increase health care costs, cripple our nation's  
17 productivity, and devastate American lives"; and

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

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

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

10          WHEREAS, The primary governing federal statute, the Toxic  
11 Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA), was intended to  
12 authorize the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to  
13 protect public health and the environment from toxic chemicals;  
14 and

15          WHEREAS, When the TSCA was passed, about 62,000 chemicals  
16 in commerce were grandfathered in without any required testing  
17 for health and safety hazards or any restrictions on usage; and

18          WHEREAS, In the 35 years since the TSCA passed, the EPA has  
19 required chemical companies to test only about 200 of those  
20 chemicals for health hazards and has issued partial  
21 restrictions on only 5 chemicals; and

1           WHEREAS, The TSCA has been widely recognized as ineffective  
2 and obsolete due to legal and procedural hurdles that prevent  
3 the EPA from taking quick and effective regulatory action to  
4 protect the public against well-known chemical threats; and

5           WHEREAS, In January 2009, the U.S. General Accounting  
6 Office (GAO) added the EPA's regulatory program for assessing  
7 and controlling toxic chemicals to its list of high risk  
8 government programs that are not working as intended, finding  
9 that:

10           (1) the EPA has been unable to complete assessments  
11 even of chemicals of highest concern;

12           (2) the EPA requires additional authority to obtain  
13 health and safety information from the chemical industry  
14 and to shift more of the burden to chemical companies to  
15 demonstrate the safety of their products; and

16           (3) the TSCA does not provide sufficient chemical  
17 safety data for public use by consumers, businesses, and  
18 workers and fails to create incentives to develop safer  
19 alternatives; and

20           WHEREAS, The National Conference of State Legislatures  
21 unanimously adopted a resolution in July 2009 that articulated  
22 principles for TSCA reform and called on Congress to act to  
23 update the law; and

1           WHEREAS, In August 2010, the Environmental Council of  
2 States, the national association of state environmental agency  
3 directors, unanimously adopted a resolution entitled  
4 "Reforming the Toxic Substances Control Act", which endorsed  
5 specific policy reforms; and

6           WHEREAS, Ten states have come together to launch the  
7 Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse to coordinate state  
8 chemical information management programs and a coalition of 13  
9 states issued guiding principles for TSCA reform; and

10           WHEREAS, Seventy-one state laws on chemical safety have  
11 been enacted and signed into law in 18 states with broad  
12 bipartisan support over the last 8 years; and

13           WHEREAS, State policy leadership on chemical management,  
14 although outstanding, cannot substitute for Congressional  
15 leadership to reform the TSCA, a reform which all parties agree  
16 is urgently needed; and

17           WHEREAS, The TSCA is the only major federal environmental  
18 statute that has never been updated or reauthorized; and

19           WHEREAS, Legislation to substantially reform the TSCA was  
20 introduced during the 109th Congress in 2005, the 110th  
21 Congress in 2008, and again in the 111th Congress in 2010;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
3 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
4 The House of Representatives of the State of Illinois  
5 encourages the 112th United States Congress to enact federal  
6 legislation to modernize the Toxic Substances Control Act of  
7 1976 to strengthen chemicals management through policy reforms  
8 that:

9 (1) require chemical manufacturers to prove that all  
10 existing and new chemicals are not harmful to human health  
11 and provide essential health and safety information on  
12 chemicals to inform the market, consumers, and the public;

13 (2) require immediate action to reduce or eliminate the  
14 worst chemicals, including persistent, bioaccumulative,  
15 and toxic chemicals (PBTs) and other priority toxics to  
16 which there is already widespread exposure;

17 (3) preserve the authority of state and tribal  
18 governments to operate chemicals management programs that  
19 are more protective than the federal government's;

20 (4) establish health safety standards for chemicals  
21 that rely on the best available science to protect the most  
22 vulnerable among us, such as children and the developing  
23 fetus;

24 (5) reward innovation by fast-tracking approval of  
25 new, demonstrably safer chemicals and invest in green

1 chemistry research and workforce development to boost  
2 American business and spur jobs, making safer  
3 alternatives; and

4 (6) promote environmental justice by developing action  
5 plans to reduce disproportionate exposure to toxic  
6 chemicals in hot spot communities; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
8 presented to each member of the Illinois congressional  
9 delegation.