

Healthy Legacy

Healthy people,
a clean environment
and a thriving economy



Toxic Free Kids Act

Tired of hearing about lead and other chemicals in children's products? So are we.

Contrary to popular belief, there is no system in place in the United States to ensure that the chemicals in our children's products are safe and tested before they are used. The result? Many toxic chemicals are ending up in a place they shouldn't: our children's bodies.

Healthy Legacy supports system-wide solutions to ensure that all children's products are safe *before* they end up in stores.

States are taking the lead where the federal government has fallen behind, and are making a significant difference in protecting the health of children. Minnesota has the opportunity to do the same!

Policy recommendation

Healthy Legacy supports the Toxic Free Kids Act, a common sense approach to addressing the problem so many Minnesotans are concerned about. The bill would grant authority to the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) to review the safety of chemicals in children's products.

This proposal has minimal fiscal impact; it merely calls for the PCA to report back to the legislature on potential funding mechanisms. Any new regulations would be implemented in future years as funds become available. The bill:

- **Allows** the PCA to gather information about chemicals in children's products
- **Establishes** a sound, comprehensive system for prioritizing chemicals used in children's products
- **Creates** a "priority chemicals list" based on children's exposure and chemical toxicity
- **Requires** manufacturers to phase out priority chemicals, only if and when safer alternatives are available
- **Facilitates** information sharing with other states that have passed similar laws, to prevent duplicating efforts



Sharing information among states

The University of Massachusetts Lowell recently established an Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2), a new resource that will facilitate implementation of the Toxic Free Kids Act. The IC2 will bring together research and data gathered on chemical hazards, safer alternatives, and chemical policy initiatives into a single location, while establishing new data, research, dialogues and collaborations. **This means that the PCA can easily use existing information, rather than reinventing the wheel.** The IC2 will provide a common information portal that connects government officials, business professionals and members of the general public to existing international, national and internal data.

Healthy Legacy promotes the production and use of everyday products without toxic chemicals.

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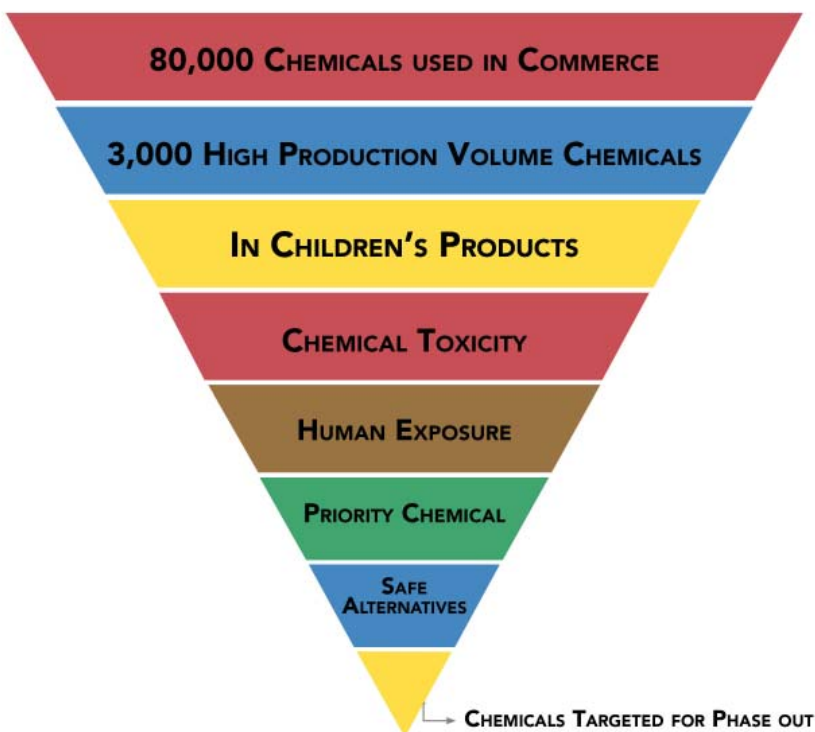
Why children's products?

While assuring the safety of all consumer products is important, we are especially concerned about protecting children. Children are uniquely vulnerable to toxic exposures because they are growing and developing. Their immune systems aren't fully developed, so they don't detoxify and excrete toxic chemicals as easily as adults.

Children also have greater exposure than adults due to their behavior. For example, young children put their fingers in their mouths and live closer to the ground, where toxins settle. Young children also have higher exposures through breast milk and other foods. Exposure to hormone-disrupting chemicals like bisphenol A, during critical times in development, even at very low doses, can result in lifelong adverse health effects.

How would this system work?

This bill clearly lays out a common sense approach to looking at chemicals in children's products. It creates various filters to narrow down how the PCA would prioritize chemicals. *See below*



Moving away from a "chemical by chemical" approach

It is our vision that we can move away from trying to regulate chemicals one by one in favor of a system based on: empowering our PCA to prioritize chemicals, share information with other states, and phasing in less toxic alternatives.



Contact us for more information, and join us on the path to a better future!

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Who is Healthy Legacy?

Healthy Legacy is a public health coalition representing over one million Minnesotans who are dedicated to safe products, made safely. Our coalition is comprised of 30 diverse organizations ranging from groups like the Minnesota Council of Churches, the MN Parent Teacher Association, and the Learning Disabilities Association of MN, to the Minnesota Nurses Association, the League of Women Voters and more. Staffing for Healthy Legacy is housed at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and Clean Water Action.

We educate consumers, work with leading businesses and promote protective policies.

Visit our Web site, healthylegacy.org, for a complete list of our coalition partners.