

# the Chronicle

Letter published in Willimantic Chronicle on May 9, 2013

To the Editor,

I commend the Chronicle for their story “Children’s products contain harmful toxins” (Chronicle, May 2, 2013). I applaud your efforts to educate the public on this urgent issue. There is a growing body of science showing that the toxins in the items we use every day are affecting our health, and that young, developing children are especially vulnerable in ways that may impact them for life.

In case you missed the article, a new report, “Chemicals Revealed” summarizes data reported under Washington State’s Children’s Safe Products Act of 2008, which requires major companies making children’s products to report the presence of toxic chemicals in their products. This report shows that over 5000 children’s products such as clothing, toys, and bedding contain toxic chemicals including phthalates, solvents and heavy metals like mercury, cadmium and cobalt. The companies that reported include many major brands, including Wal-Mart, Nike, Gap, Gymboree, H & M, J. C. Penney, Lego and many other familiar names, which means that these products are in commerce all over the U.S.

Back in Connecticut, we are working to pass HB 6489, which would move our state in the right direction. The bill simply requires the Department of Public Health to identify chemicals of concern to children based on toxicity and exposure hazard and 2) make recommendations for action to the legislature every 2 years. There would be no fiscal impact to the state budget. I urge concerned readers to let their legislators know that they support HB 6489 and ask them to co-sponsor the bill.

Parents want to know that children’s products like baby shampoo, nap mats and nursing pillows are safe for their children!

Susan Eastwood  
178 Waterfall Road  
Ashford, CT 06278  
860-487-5903

*The writer is the Director of Communications and Outreach for the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT.*