

Journal Inquirer

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To the Editor,

Infants today are born with more than 200 toxic chemicals coursing through their blood. This toxic soup is in all of us, the result of our daily exposure to chemicals like BPA and formaldehyde in everyday products but developing children are the most vulnerable - exposure to even a small amount of toxins can cause lifelong damage. A federal bill, the Safe Chemicals Act, has met with strong opposition from the chemical industry and has failed to pass. That makes it even more important for states to pass laws to identify chemicals of high concern and to set up a process to ensure safe and healthy products for all of our citizens.

Connecticut is recognized as a national leader in passing health protective policies to restrict exposure to some of these toxic chemicals. In 2009, the state was the first to ban bisphenol-A (BPA), a known endocrine disruptor, from certain children's products and recyclable containers and infant formula containers. In 2011, Connecticut again passed precedent-setting legislation to ban BPA in thermal receipt paper. This past session, a bill to restrict toxic flame retardants known as chlorinated Tris, from children's products was raised but unfortunately did not get called for a vote. These are all important steps to protect the public but with over 83,000 chemicals in commerce, most of which have never been tested for safety, to ban one chemical at a time would take over a century!!!

Connecticut should lead the way by setting up a system to identify chemicals of concern and act to reduce exposure, particularly for pregnant mothers and young children. The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT is working to pass such a bill this year. Find out how you can get involved at www.safehealthyct.org.

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