

# Willimantic Chronicle

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To the Editor:

I am the proud grandparent of nine beautiful girls and boys! I'll admit that I looked forward to the day when I could enjoy playing with my grandchildren without all the worry and everyday concerns of being a parent! But I am deeply concerned about the dangers of untested and unregulated chemicals in our consumer goods. The health impacts hit the young the hardest as they are still developing and are more vulnerable to exposure to toxic chemicals such as hormone-disrupting bisphenol-A and phthalates, or carcinogenic chemicals used as flame retardants.

Most people think that our government has strong laws to protect our health but this is not the case. Of the 84,000 chemicals currently used in industry, 63,000 were grandfathered in with no testing required when the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) was passed in the 1970's. To this date only about 200 chemicals have been tested under the TSCA laws and only five have been fully regulated. Even asbestos, a well known carcinogen has not been banned under this weak law.

There is bipartisan agreement that we need to reform the outdated Toxic Substances Control Act in order to protect all of us from chemicals of concern. Congress has begun seriously debating chemical reform, but not without the powerful chemical lobby's influence. The devil is in the details! I'm asking Senators Blumenthal and Murphy to withhold support for any bill with loopholes, extended delays in protection, limits on enforcement or lax restrictions on imports that will sacrifice our children's health for the convenience of corporate profits. I'll be watching the debate over Toxic Substances Control Act reform with my grandchildren in mind.

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