



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, September 14, 2012

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## **LIEBERMAN PRAISED FOR CO-SPONSORING SAFE CHEMICALS ACT Advocates push for a Senate vote this Fall**

**HARTFORD** -- Advocates from the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut (CSHC) today praised **Senator Joseph Lieberman (I-CT)** for taking action to protect the public from toxic chemicals by co-sponsoring **The Safe Chemicals Act**, federal legislation that they say would finally reform the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) by increasing chemical safety, informing consumers and the marketplace on chemical hazards in products and protecting vulnerable populations like pregnant women and children.

The bill, which was introduced by Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-New Jersey), would require manufacturers to prove a chemical's safety before it is introduced in commerce. Currently, a chemical isn't tested unless its widespread use begins to show negative health effects and therefore cause concern. The reform legislation was recently given the green light by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

"Over a decade ago, I asked GAO to study the use of pesticides at schools, and was alarmed by the lack of information about what our children come in contact with. Today, I am proud to join my colleagues as a cosponsor of the Safe Chemicals Act because families deserve to know what the impact is of the chemicals they and their children are exposed to every day. Most chemicals are safe, but we deserve to know which are not. This bill will help accelerate the much-needed evaluation of chemicals entering the marketplace," said **Senator Lieberman**.

"We're very pleased and proud that Senator Lieberman has taken this step to improve the environmental health of residents in Connecticut and nationwide," said **Mark Mitchell, MD, MPH**, President of Mitchell Environmental Health Associates and member of the Coalition. "We hope he will join us in pushing for a vote in the coming weeks."

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According to Mitchell, there has been a big push on behalf of toxic chemical reform advocates throughout the nation to contact Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada) to urge a vote on the bill this fall.

“The rates of many cancers, reproductive disorders and learning and behavioral disorders are on the rise. There is growing consensus that many of these diseases are linked to our exposure to toxic chemicals in products we use every day. The Safe Chemicals Act (S. 847) goes a long way to fixing our broken chemical policy and it’s more important than ever that Congress act now,” said **Anne Hulick, RN MS JD, Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT Coordinator**. “With Senator Lieberman’s support, Connecticut now has strong leadership behind this issue.”

“Parents are tired of playing detective when it comes to buying safe consumer products for our families. We’re not only tired, but fed up and ready for Congress to protect American consumers from toxic chemicals hiding in the products we use everyday – day in and day out,” said **Laura Anderson**, mother of two and a citizen member of the organization. “Thank you Senator Lieberman for being on our side.”

The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut is a growing partnership of citizens and organizations working for safer alternatives to toxic chemicals. For more information, visit our website [www.safehealthyct.org](http://www.safehealthyct.org).

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