

NEW HAVEN REGISTER

Letters to the Editor: Support fight against harmful chemicals

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The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT works to ensure that chemicals of concern to our health are removed from everyday products. Our successes include banning hormone-disrupting bisphenol-A (BPA) from baby bottles, sippy cups, infant formula cans and thermal receipts. BPA, even in small amounts, has been linked to reproductive disorders, cancer, learning disabilities and obesity, with the impacts especially pronounced in children with still-developing endocrine systems. Unfortunately, one of the main sources of exposure, the linings of canned food, remains unregulated.

We are also proud of our success in getting lead out of children's toys and jewelry. A big step, but manufacturers soon replaced the lead in cheap jewelry with cadmium, another heavy metal that has dangerous health effects. We then fought to take cadmium out of children's jewelry. This was defined as jewelry for children under the age of 12, leaving teens and adults unprotected.

Despite some big wins, there is much work to be done. The one-at-a-time approach is like playing toxic whack-a-mole with our children's health!

That is why we have kicked off the Campaign for Toxic-Free Kids. We will work to pass a more comprehensive bill that will require the Department of Public Health to look at the science on chemicals of concern and make recommendations to the legislature about how best to address the most dangerous.

But we can't do it without you! Join our Campaign for Toxic-Free Kids at toxicfreekidsct.org. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Learn more at www.safehealthyct.org.

We deserve to know that the products we buy are safe!

The New Haven Environmental Justice Network wholeheartedly supports this effort; our goal is to safeguard the health of New Haven residents and reduce illness from environmental pollution.

— Lynne Bonnett New Haven

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