

# The Bulletin

## Letter: We're working for a toxic-free state

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There are currently 84,000 chemicals used in commerce, of which only about 200 have been tested for safety and just 5 regulated by the EPA. Even asbestos, a known carcinogen, is not fully banned because federal law is too weak. Meanwhile, the European Union regulates over 1,100 chemicals due to evidence that they are likely harmful to our health. Study after study links chemicals like bisphenol-A (BPA), phthalates and flame retardants to rising rates of cancer, neurodegenerative diseases, reproductive health issues, learning and developmental disabilities, and asthma.

Stronger national legislation doesn't seem likely in the near future, but there has been progress at the state level. Connecticut has led the country, passing laws to restrict exposure to harmful chemicals, like cadmium and BPA. But we need to do more.

That's why we've launched a Campaign for Toxic-Free Kids and will work tirelessly with our legislative champions to move away from single chemical bans to a sustainable framework for identifying and reducing exposure to toxic chemicals. Join us at <http://toxicfreekidsct.org/>.

### **SUSAN EASTWOOD**

Ashford

Susan Eastwood is Director of Communications and Outreach for the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT which is running The Campaign for Toxic-Free Kids.

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