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## **TWO STATE ORGANIZATIONS JOIN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TOXIC CHEMICALS**

### **Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT announces new members**

**Connecticut** -- The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut, which successfully advanced banning the use of BPA in baby bottles, infant formula containers and other reusable containers in the state, today announced that two additional organizations have joined forces with them in their fight to reduce the public's exposure to toxic chemicals. New Coalition members include the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) and Connecticut Breastfeeding Coalition (CBC).

"We are thrilled to partner with the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and the Connecticut Breastfeeding Coalition. Increasingly, scientists and health professionals agree that there are strong links between exposure to toxic chemicals, particularly during critical windows of development, and diseases later on in life. With the rise in many serious diseases like cancers in children, learning and behavioral disorders, breast cancer and reproductive disorders, the writing is on the wall and women and mothers are reading it," said Coalition Coordinator Anne Hulick, RN, JD.

"More and more women are taking a stand against toxic chemicals to protect their children and families," she added. "We are proud to have two such influential groups join in our efforts to make Connecticut a safer place in which to raise a family."

"The PCSW is pleased to join the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut as it takes steps to improve the long-term health of women and children," said Teresa Younger, Executive Director of PCSW. "Progress is always incremental, and it begins with asking the kinds of hard-hitting questions the Coalition is putting in front of the public, the corporate community and our elected leaders."

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women was formed in 1973 to study and improve Connecticut women's economic security, health and safety; to promote consideration of qualified women to leadership positions and to work toward the

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elimination of gender discrimination. As a non-partisan arm of the General Assembly, the agency monitors, critiques and recommends changes to legislation in order to inform public policy, and assess programs and practices in all State agencies for their effect on the state's women. The PCSW serves as a liaison between government and its diverse constituents, and convenes stakeholders, including the business, non-profit and educational communities, local governments, and the media in order to promote awareness of women's issues.

"We are delighted to join the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut. The two groups are closely aligned in the concern for the health and well being of mothers and infants in Connecticut ***as evidenced by their efforts to remove BPA from infant feeding products.*** Mothers are very capable of making the right feeding choices for themselves and their children, they deserve feeding products that promote the healthy growth and development of their children and do not increase their own health risks" Michele Griswold, Chair of the CBC.

The Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut is an ever-growing partnership of citizens and over 50 organizations working for safer alternatives to toxic chemicals. The Coalition represents health professionals, workers, nurses, businesses, environmentalists, occupational safety advocates, people of faith, and individuals whose health has been impacted by toxic chemicals.

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