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ORGANIZING FOR A BETTER MAINE



Maine Women's Policy Center
THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN

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Alliance for a
Clean and Healthy Maine

**Maine Conservation
Voters Education Fund**
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What do beach balls have to do with your annual check-up?



Exposure to toxic chemicals in everyday products puts the health of Maine children and adults at risk.

Children's products should be fun and safe, and Mainers should not be exposed to toxic chemicals just going about their daily lives.

However, many beach balls and other everyday consumer products contain phthalates, a group of common chemicals that are used in plastics, solvents, and fragrances. When they leach from products, they have been shown to disrupt hormones, reduce fertility, and affect the development of reproductive organs, especially in males.

“Reducing the exposure of the next generation to dangerous chemicals, using a scientific approach, could be as significant a public health revolution as recognition of the need for clean water.

— Dr. Lani Graham, *Family Practice Physician, and a former Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC)*

Testimony on behalf of the Maine Medical Association, Maine Academy of Pediatrics, Portland Public Health Division and Physicians for Social Responsibility, in support of LD 2048, the Kid-Safe Products Bill.



WHAT POLICY MAKERS CAN DO

The key to improving health and lowering health costs is to prevent diseases before they occur. This can be done by reducing exposure to toxic chemicals in everyday consumer products. As a candidate for public office, you can help speed efforts to replace these dangerous chemicals with safer alternatives and expand consumer information when toxic chemicals are added to the products we buy.

When people are healthier, health care costs go down, and we all benefit.

Every year, exposure to toxic chemicals in children leads to \$55 billion in health care costs.

Women working in the rubber, plastics or synthetics industry have an 80% greater chance of miscarriage.

In a recent study of Maine people, 46 different chemicals out of 71 tested were found present in their bodies.

Fewer than 10% of chemicals are tested for their impact on human health.

For more information, please visit www.cleanandhealthyme.org