



T O X I C - F R E E L E G A C Y C O A L I T I O N

4649 SUNNYSIDE AVENUE N., SUITE 540, SEATTLE WA 98103 • 360-292-8540  
WWW.TOXICFREELEGACY.ORG

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Dear Washington State Legislators:

We, the undersigned members of the Toxic-Free Legacy Coalition, an alliance of health, environmental, and community organizations, are writing to ask you to protect our children and our environment from the harmful chemical bisphenol A by passing the Safe Baby Bottle Act of 2009 (HB 1180/SB 5282).

Thanks to the leadership of the Legislature, Washington State has established itself as a national leader in protecting children from toxic chemicals. Last year, you enacted the nation's strongest standards for toxic chemicals in toys. This leadership directly led to the U.S. Congress passing legislation banning lead and phthalates in children's toys. You have the opportunity to continue to lead the nation by passing legislation that will protect children from BPA.

The Safe Baby Bottle Act of 2009 protects children's health by:

- Prohibiting the use of BPA in baby bottles and children's food and beverage containers.
- Ensuring other harmful chemicals are not used as a substitute for BPA in baby bottles and children's food and beverage containers.
- Allowing further state action on food containers containing BPA if safer alternatives are available.
- Providing consumers and policy makers information on health and economic impacts of BPA and its alternative chemicals.

It is critical to pass the Safe Baby Bottle Act of 2009 for the following reasons:

- **BPA is a harmful, hormone-disrupting chemical.** BPA was developed as a synthetic sex hormone. It can have health effects at extremely low exposure levels. Laboratory studies have linked BPA to cancer, miscarriage, obesity, reproductive problems, and hyperactivity.
- **When BPA is used in baby bottles and other children's food containers, young children are exposed to BPA.** BPA is used in common household materials, including some clear, rigid plastic water bottles, baby bottles, reusable food containers, and food cans. Studies

show BPA leaches from these products and is now contaminating people too.

- **We are finding BPA in humans and in the environment.** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) found 93 percent of Americans age 6 and up were exposed to BPA. Children in the study had the highest levels of BPA, followed by teens and adults. BPA is also contaminating our environment. Studies have detected the chemical in groundwater supplies.
- **Safer alternatives are available.** Fortunately, it is possible to make bottles and other food containers without BPA. Companies such as Nalgene, Playtex, and Eden foods have all started using BPA-free alternatives. Wal-Mart and Toys “R” Us have also pledged to stop selling baby bottles containing BPA.
- **Other governments are beginning to take action.** Canada has announced plans to ban BPA in baby bottles. This year, many states will consider legislation to eliminate BPA from children’s products, including Oregon, California, Minnesota, New York, Connecticut, and Maine.

We all have a responsibility to ensure our children develop in an environment in which they are protected from exposures to harmful chemicals and can reach their full potential. We hope that you will make passing the Safe Baby Bottle Act of 2009 (HB 1180/SB 5282) a priority this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Kurt Fritts  
Executive Director  
Washington Conservation Voters

Joan Crooks  
Executive Director  
Washington Environmental Council

Lan Nguyen  
Health Policy Coordinator  
Children's Alliance

Cherie Eichholz  
Executive Director  
Washington Physicians for Social  
Responsibility

Judy Huntington, MN, RN  
Executive Director  
Washington State Nurses Association

Karen Bowman  
President  
Washington State Association of  
Occupational Health Nurses

Blair Anundson  
Consumer Advocate  
WashPIRG

Kathy Fletcher  
Executive Director  
People For Puget Sound

Jennifer Allen  
Director of Public Policy  
Planned Parenthood Public Policy  
Network of Washington

Kristin Rowe Finkbeiner  
Executive Director  
MomsRising.org

Laura Killian  
Antioch University

Jim Pucket  
Executive Director  
Basel Action Network

Janet Nudelman  
Director of Program and Policy  
Breast Cancer Fund

Leslie Ann Rose  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Citizens for a Healthy Bay

Kathy Curtis  
Policy Director  
Clean New York, A project of Women's  
Voices For The Earth

Karen Ahern  
Director  
Coalition for Environmentally Safe  
Schools

BJ Cummings  
Coordinator  
Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition

LeeAnne Beres  
Executive Director  
Earth Ministry

Aimee Boulanger  
Program Director  
Institute for Children's Environmental  
Health

Elizabeth Davis  
Natural Resources Committee Chair  
League of Women Voters of Washington

Dr. Steven Gilbert  
Institute of Neurotoxicology &  
Neurological Disorders

Steve Anthes  
Vice President  
Kettle Range Conservation Group

Cyd Imel  
Executive Director  
Learning Disabilities Association of  
Washington

Ann Clifton  
Co-Chair  
Mercury Awareness Team of Washington

Matt Prindiville  
Toxics Project Director  
Natural Resources Council of Maine

Jane Harris  
Executive Director  
Oregon Center For Environmental Health

Mike Schade  
PVC Campaign Coordinator  
The Center for Health, Environment and  
Justice

Dr. Janet Primomo  
University of Washington, Tacoma

Laurie Valeriano  
Policy Director  
Washington Toxics Coalition

Aaron Ostrom  
Executive Director  
FUSE Washington

Mike Belliveau  
Executive Director  
Environmental Health Strategy Center

Suzanne Murphy  
Executive Director  
Worksafe, Inc.

Tracy Lakatua  
Executive Director  
Women's Voices for the Earth

Laura Abulafia  
Director of the Environmental Health  
Initiative  
American Association on Intellectual  
and Developmental Disabilities

Davis Baltz  
Special Projects Director  
Commonweal

Charity Carbine  
Environmental Health Advocate  
Vermont Public Interest Research Group