

May 25, 2016

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the March of Dimes, a unique partnership of scientists, clinicians, parents, members of the business community and other volunteers affiliated every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, I would like to urge you vote in favor of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2576, the TSCA Modernization Act, as amended and passed by the House of Representatives on May 24. The March of Dimes considers this bill to be a vital step toward ensuring the safety of chemicals, particularly for pregnant women and children.

A broad-based consensus exists in the policy community that the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (TSCA) is an outdated law in great need of revision. At the time of its original passage almost 40 years ago, TSCA provided only an elementary framework for the regulation of chemicals in commerce. Since that time the law has remained essentially unchanged, even as tens of thousands of new chemicals entered the marketplace and were used in a vast array of consumer products and settings.

The Senate amendment to H.R. 2576 represents a significant step toward a reformed, workable federal program. The bill establishes a sensible framework for the evaluation of chemicals currently in commerce, as well as new ones that may be developed. It requires special consideration of a chemical's impacts on vulnerable populations, including pregnant women and children, and, if an increased risk is found, authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to place targeted restrictions on chemicals to limit exposure among those groups. The bill requires EPA to evaluate chemicals in a timely fashion and to make information publicly available on risks, including to first responders.

Once again, the March of Dimes urges you to vote in favor of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2576, as further amended and passed by the House. If we may provide further information on this important issue, please contact Cynthia Pellegrini, Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Government Affairs, at 202/659-1800.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jennifer L. Howse  
President