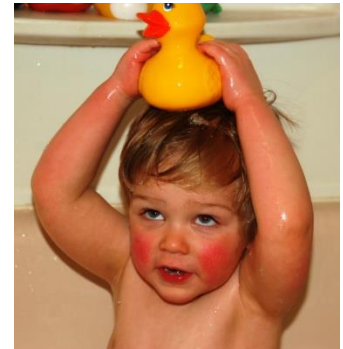


## Support the Toxic-Free Families Act (S.239)

**Toxic chemicals remain far too prevalent** in a wide range of consumer products.

Studies show that harmful chemicals are contributing to alarming public health trends, including **increasing rates of childhood and other cancers, obesity, asthma, infertility, learning disabilities,** and more.



The federal law that is supposed to be protecting us, the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, is widely agreed to be broken. That's why **Vermont has repeatedly taken steps to protect our families from toxic chemicals** by passing some of the nation's toughest restrictions on lead, BPA, phthalates, mercury, and flame retardant chemicals.

However, with more than 84,000 chemicals registered for use in commerce in the U.S., **it's inefficient and ineffective to continue addressing this problem one chemical at a time.** Instead, it's time for the state to give the scientific experts at the Vermont Department of Health the authority to thoughtfully and systematically address this public health problem by implementing a chemical safety program to:

1. Create a list of chemicals of high concern – those chemicals known to harm human health, and which we know people are being exposed to.
2. Require manufacturers to report to the state if any consumer products they sell in Vermont contain a chemical of high concern.
3. Give the Department of Health – in consultation with a working group of scientists, advocates, and businesses – the authority to identify “priority chemicals” for further regulatory action, such as restrictions or labeling.

This chemical safety program will better protect the health of Vermont families, and help us all have confidence that products on our store shelves are healthy and safe.

**We urge you to stand with Vermont parents, doctors, nurses, firefighters, environmental groups, numerous local businesses, and others by supporting the Toxic-Free Families Act (S.239).**

## **Organizations supporting the Toxic-Free Families Act (S.239) include:**

- ❖ American Cancer Society - Vermont
- ❖ American Lung Association of New England
- ❖ Vermont State Nurses Association
- ❖ Vermont Nurse Practitioner Association
- ❖ Vermont Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals
- ❖ Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
- ❖ Professional Fire Fighters of Vermont
- ❖ Voices for Vermont's Children
- ❖ Non-Toxic Kids
- ❖ Vermont Public Interest Research Group
- ❖ Toxics Action Center
- ❖ Vermont Conservation Voters
- ❖ Mercury Policy Project
- ❖ Vermont Natural Resources Council
- ❖ Vermont Chapter - AFL-CIO
- ❖ Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility
- ❖ Over 75 Vermont businesses

