

**Vermont Nurse Practitioner Association
Vermont State Nurses Association
Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network of Vermont**

April 3rd, 2014

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our organizations, and the doctors, nurses and other Vermont medical professionals we represent, we encourage your support of S.239, “An act relating to the regulation of toxic substances.”

An important aspect of our organizations’ missions are preventing diseases and promoting health for all members of society. In our profession, we see the impacts to Vermont families of alarming public health trends such as increasing rates of childhood and other cancers, asthma, obesity, infertility, and more.

Scientific evidence continues to mount linking exposure to toxic chemicals to these negative health outcomes. By reducing exposure to toxic chemicals – as would be achieved through S. 239 – Vermonters’ health outcomes could be improved, helping our patients and their families, and reducing health care costs.

As the federal government continues to fail to adequately address the problem of toxic chemicals in consumer products, we encourage Vermont to take action to identify the chemicals of most concern; establish disclosure mechanisms; and require that less harmful chemicals are substituted when possible.

The costs need not be substantive. Many states have already led the way by comprehensively reviewing the scientific research and establishing guidelines. With a thorough review of work already done by others, Vermont could easily implement chemical safety regulations.

We urge your support of S.239 to reduce Vermonters’ exposure to toxic chemicals, thereby preventing diseases and disabilities, cutting health care costs, and keeping more of the Vermonters we see in our practices every day healthy and safe.

Thank you for your consideration.

- ❖ Vermont Nurse Practitioner Association
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- ❖ Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
- ❖ American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network of Vermont