

**Statement of Megan Rice to Governor Paul LePage
January 20, 2011**

Thank you Governor LePage for your commitment to Maine families.

I was invited to speak here today by the Environmental Health Strategy Center, because of my commitment to the health of Maine's children.

I'm here representing mothers from around the state worried about unnecessary dangerous chemicals in everyday products. Some widely used chemicals - like bisphenol-A - can damage our children's health. BPA disrupts hormones in children's bodies, and has been linked to learning disabilities, cancer, diabetes, and reproductive problems. As the mother of two young girls, I am particularly concerned about hormone disrupting chemicals like BPA. I want my girls to grow up healthy, and be able to have children of their own some day. Dangerous chemicals do not belong in toys, shampoo, baby bottles, or any other products when safer chemicals could be used instead.

Maine has a tradition of common-sense solutions. Our Kid-Safe Products Act, passed almost unanimously by the Maine Legislature, uses a science-based approach to get the most dangerous chemicals out of products used by my two little girls.

Right now, parents and businesses are left in the dark about most chemicals used in consumer products, and about which chemicals are dangerous or safe. I should not have to be a chemist to figure out which products are safe for my children. The Kid-Safe Products Act helps parents like me get information about the worst chemicals so that we can make good decisions and protect our kids from a lifetime of expensive chronic disease.

Governor, this is an issue that affects every family and small business in Maine. On behalf of parents around the state, I urge you to continue Maine's progress toward protecting children's health, reducing health care costs for everyone, and taking advantage of the economic opportunities created through safer chemicals.

Thank you.

Remarks at "Maine People and the Environment" roundtable with Governor LePage
January 20, 2011 at the Augusta Civic Center
Event sponsored by the Natural Resources Council of Maine www.nrcm.org