

Maine's Kid-Safe Products Act



There's no place for toxic chemicals in consumer products.

Maine's Kid-Safe Products Act (KSPA) is a common-sense approach to help parents protect their children from harmful chemicals in consumer products. KSPA will:

- Prevent childhood diseases
- Reduce health care costs
- Create new businesses opportunities

Maine's Kid-Safe Products Act (KSPA) creates a process to phase out the worst of the worst chemicals in children's products and replace them with safer alternatives

- **KSPA takes a practical, science-based approach** to identifying the most dangerous chemicals used in children's products, collecting and sharing much-needed information with families and businesses, and replacing the worst-of-the-worst chemicals with safer alternatives when feasible.
- **KSPA was enacted to protect Maine children and businesses** because the federal chemical safety system is broken. In 30 years, only 5 chemicals have ever been restricted under the outdated federal law. Maine and other states stepped forward to replace mercury, lead, and other dangerous chemicals in everyday products with safer alternatives.
- **KSPA is focused and common-sense.** KSPA requires the adoption of a list of Chemicals of High Concern already proven harmful to children. It allows the state to select a few Priority Chemicals that require immediate action, collect information on the use of these worst-of-the-worst chemicals in everyday products, require research into safer alternatives, and propose phase outs if necessary.
 - **KSPA provides information to parents and retailers** – it requires manufacturers to tell us when priority chemicals already proven harmful to children are used in everyday products.
 - **KSPA promotes safer products** – safer alternatives to dangerous chemicals can only be required if they are proven available, effective, and affordable by state agencies after full public participation by all interested parties.
 - **KSPA requires Legislative oversight** – the Maine Legislature must review and approve any proposed restrictions on chemicals in consumer products.

The Kid-Safe Products Act was enacted with overwhelming bipartisan and public support

- **KSPA was enacted by an overwhelming bipartisan margin in the Maine Legislature** (129-9 in the House, 35-0 in the Senate) in 2008.
- **KSPA was broadly supported** by 60 nonpartisan medical, public health, family, faith, and environmental organizations and by Maine businesses.
- **No Maine businesses** testified in opposition to the KSPA in 2008. Over 100 Maine businesses supported “swift and thorough” implementation of the law.

The Kid-Safe Products Act SUPPORTS Maine Businesses

- KSPA **provides important safety information** to businesses and consumers.
- KSPA helps Maine businesses **meet consumer demand for safe products**.
- KSPA **encourages innovation**, which in turn drives improved quality, reduced liability, product differentiation, cost savings, and the creation of new markets.
- KSPA **creates market pressure on the chemical industry to provide safe chemicals to product manufacturers and, in turn, safe products to retailers**.
- KSPA **exempts retail businesses** unless they knowingly sell a restricted product.

Diverse, Nonpartisan Maine Organizations Supported the Kid-Safe Products Act

HEALTH:

Maine Medical Association
American Academy of Pediatrics - Maine Chapter
Maine State Nurses Association

Maine Women's Lobby

ENVIRONMENT:

Maine League of Conservation Voters
Natural Resources Council of Maine

CHILDREN and FAMILY:

Maine Children's Alliance
Learning Disabilities Association of Maine
Maine Parent Teacher Association

FAITH:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland
Maine Council of Churches

... and more than 55 other nonpartisan Maine organizational endorsers.

2011 ACTIONS NEEDED:

Maine Can Grow Healthy Kids and a Healthy Economy

Maine has adopted bipartisan, common-sense policy to protect children from the most dangerous chemicals in everyday products, expand business opportunities through safer products, and reduce health care costs. In 2011, Maine's Legislature should:

- Approve the phase out of toxic BPA from baby bottles, sippy cups, and other reusable food and beverage containers;
- Reject chemical industry proposals to overturn the Kid-Safe Products Act and other critical protections for children's environmental health;
- Ensure that Maine names more Priority Chemicals for immediate action.