



## **Toxic Free Kids Act Supporters**

1. Arc Greater Twin Cities
2. Autism Society of Minnesota
3. Chance to Grow
4. Children's Defense Fund
5. Clean Water Fund
6. Conservation Minnesota
7. Creative Health Connections
8. Earthology Institute
9. Eureka Recycling
10. Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota
11. Global Action
12. Healthy Child Healthy World
13. Heartland Community Action
14. Indigenous Environmental Network
15. Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
16. Kids for Saving Earth
17. League of Women Voters - Minneapolis
18. Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota
19. Local Public Health Association
20. Metro Independent Business Alliance
21. Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health
22. Minnesota Black Nurses Association
23. Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
24. Minnesota Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities
25. Minnesota Council of Churches
26. Minnesota Natural Health Legal Reform Project
27. Minnesota Nurses Association
28. Minnesota Parent Teacher Association
29. Minnesota Pesticide Awareness
30. Minnesota Public Health Association
31. Minnesota Public Interest Research Group
32. Minnesota Technical Assistance Program
33. Pesticide Action Network North America
34. Planned Parenthood MN, ND, SD
35. Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 26
36. Sierra Club North Star Chapter
37. Sustainable Resources Center
38. Take Back the Air
39. Women's Environmental Institute



February 12, 2015

**RE: Support for Toxic Free Kids Act of 2015**

Dear Minnesota Legislators,

The Minnesota Public Health Association (MPHA) is writing to urge your support for the Toxic Free Kids Act of 2015 which would help protect Minnesota's children from harmful chemicals, found in toys, shampoos and other products for children under 12 years old.

MPHA is the statewide association of public health professionals dedicated to creating a healthier Minnesota through effective public health practice and engaged citizens. The adverse impact of exposure to toxic chemicals on our children's health is a key public health issue. For this reason MPHA joins with Healthy Legacy to support the Toxic Free Kids Act of 2015 to protect Minnesota's children from unnecessary exposures to harmful chemicals.

Over the last several decades, children have faced an increasingly challenging time just making it through what should be normal stages of growth and development. Incidences of reproductive defects, childhood obesity, early onset puberty, learning disabilities, and many other chronic health problems are on the rise. Many of these problems have been linked with exposure to toxic chemicals.

Of particular concern are those chemicals found in products children use everyday, such as their school supplies and food packaging. For example, phthalates, used in a variety of children's vinyl products including backpacks and lunch boxes, have been linked to developmental problems, such as premature breast development in girls, male genital defects, and reduced sperm quality. Bisphenol A (BPA), found in canned food, has been linked to a host of other health problems, such as early onset puberty, behavior changes, cancer and obesity. The Minnesota Department of Health has identified nine priority chemicals in children's products that are considered the "worst of the worst:" lead, cadmium, three phthalates, bisphenol-A, two flame-retardants and formaldehyde.

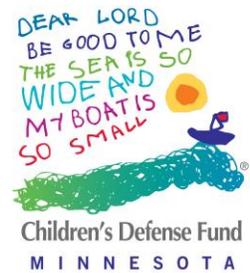
There are few laws in the U.S. prohibiting the use of these chemicals and no way for parents to know whether the products they buy contain a toxic chemical. The Toxic Free Kids Act of 2015 would require a manufacturer to report their use of priority chemicals in children's products (ages 0 to 12) sold in Minnesota, which would enable state agencies to inform parents about which products contain priority chemicals. Safer alternatives do exist. While some major manufacturers have already taken the responsible path toward eliminating some priority chemicals from their products, this bill provides strong incentives for all manufacturers to phase out the use of these chemicals.

By eliminating unnecessary exposure to toxic chemicals in children's products, Minnesota will continue to be a national leader in protecting children and ensure our children are wearing, playing with and using the safest products on the market. You can contact me at [president@mpha.net](mailto:president@mpha.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen Godfrey Walters". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'K'.

Kristen Godfrey Walters  
President, Minnesota Public Health Association



February 26, 2015

**RE: Support for Toxic-Free Kids Act of 2015**

Dear Minnesota Legislators,

Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota (CDF-MN) is writing to urge your support for the Toxic-Free Kids Act of 2015 which would help protect Minnesota's children from harmful chemicals, found in toys, personal care products and other products for children under 12 years old.

The Children's Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind<sup>®</sup> mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

In order to have a healthy start in life, children need a healthy environment in which to grow up and thrive. Unfortunately exposure to toxic chemicals is adversely impacting our children's health. For this reason CDF-MN joins with Healthy Legacy to support the Toxic-Free Kids Act of 2015 to protect Minnesota's children from unnecessary exposures to harmful chemicals.

Over the last several decades, children have faced an increasingly challenging time just making it through what should be normal stages of growth and development. Incidences of reproductive defects, childhood obesity, early onset puberty, learning disabilities, and many other chronic health problems are on the rise. Many of these problems have been linked with exposure to toxic chemicals.

Of particular concern are those chemicals found in products children use everyday, such as their school supplies and food packaging. For example, phthalates, used in a variety of children's vinyl products including backpacks and lunch boxes, have been linked to developmental problems, such as premature breast development in girls, male genital defects, and reduced sperm quality. Bisphenol A (BPA), found in canned food, has been linked to a host of other health problems, such as early onset puberty, behavior changes, cancer and obesity. The Minnesota Department of Health has identified nine priority chemicals in children's products that are considered the "worst of the worst:" lead, cadmium, three phthalates, bisphenol-A, two flame-retardants and formaldehyde.

There are few laws in the U.S. prohibiting the use of these chemicals and no way for parents to

555 Park St., Suite 410, St. Paul, MN 55103 | [www.cdf-mn.org](http://www.cdf-mn.org)

Legislative Contact: Jessica Anderson (ph.) 651-230-2486 | (e.) [janderson@childrensdefense.org](mailto:janderson@childrensdefense.org)

know whether the products they buy contain a toxic chemical. TFKA 2015 would require a manufacturer to report their use of priority chemicals in children's products (ages 0 to 12) sold in Minnesota, which would enable state agencies to inform parents about which products contain priority chemicals. Safer alternatives do exist. While some major manufacturers have already taken the responsible path toward eliminating some priority chemicals from their products, this bill provides strong incentives for all manufacturers to phase out the use of these chemicals.

By eliminating unnecessary exposure to toxic chemicals in children's products, Minnesota will continue to be a national leader in protecting children and ensure our children are wearing, playing with and using the safest products on the market.

On behalf of Minnesota children,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peggy Flanagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peggy" being more prominent and the last name "Flanagan" following in a similar style.

Peggy Flanagan  
Executive Director



January 30, 2015

**RE: Support for Toxic Free Kids Act of 2015**

Dear Minnesota Legislators,

The Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA) is writing to inform you of our support for the Toxic Free Kids Act of 2015 which would help protect Minnesota's children from harmful chemicals found in toys, personal care products and other products for children under 12 years old.

LPHA works statewide to improve and protect the health of the population of Minnesota by providing leadership and advocacy on behalf of public health issues. The adverse impact of exposure to toxic chemicals on our children's health is a key public health issue. For this reason LPHA joins with Healthy Legacy to support the Toxic Free Kids Act of 2015 to protect Minnesota's children from unnecessary exposures to harmful chemicals.

Over the last several decades, children have faced an increasingly challenging time just making it through what should be normal stages of growth and development. Of particular concern are those chemicals found in products children use every day, such as their school supplies and food packaging. The Minnesota Department of Health has identified nine priority chemicals in children's products that are considered the "worst of the worst:" lead, cadmium, three phthalates, bisphenol-A, two flame-retardants and formaldehyde.

There are few laws in the U.S. prohibiting the use of these chemicals and no way for parents to know whether the products they buy contain a toxic chemical. TFKA 2015 would require a manufacturer to report their use of priority chemicals in children's products (ages 0 to 12) sold in Minnesota, which would enable state agencies to inform parents about which products contain priority chemicals. Safer alternatives do exist. While some major manufacturers have already taken the responsible path toward eliminating some priority chemicals from their products, this bill provides strong incentives for all manufacturers to phase out the use of these chemicals.

By eliminating unnecessary exposure to toxic chemicals in children's products, Minnesota will continue to be a national leader in protecting children and ensure our children are wearing, playing with and using the safest products on the market.

Sincerely,

Pete Giesen  
Chair, Local Public Health Association



February, 2015

**RE: Support for Toxic Free Kids Act (HF 1276 / SF 1099)**

Dear Legislators,

Learning Disabilities Association, Inc. (LDA Minnesota) urges your support for HF 1276 / SF 1099 which would help protect Minnesota's children from harmful chemicals, found in toys, shampoos and other products for children under 12 years old.

LDA works with children, youth and adults who have learning and attention difficulties. New research has linked exposure to toxic chemicals to rising rates of learning and developmental disabilities. For this reason LDA joins with Healthy Legacy to support the Toxic Free Kids Act of 2015 to protect Minnesota's children from unnecessary exposures to harmful chemicals. Over the last several decades incidences of reproductive defects, early onset puberty, learning disabilities, ADHD and many other chronic health problems are on the rise. Many of these problems have been linked with exposure to toxic chemicals.

Of particular concern are those chemicals found in products children use every day, such as their school supplies. For example, phthalates, used in a variety of children's vinyl products including backpacks and lunch boxes, have been linked to developmental problems, such as premature breast development in girls, male genital defects, and reduced sperm quality. The Minnesota Department of Health has identified nine priority chemicals in children's products that are considered the "worst of the worst:" lead, cadmium, three phthalates, bisphenol-A, two flame-retardants and formaldehyde.

There are few laws in the U.S. prohibiting the use of these chemicals and no way for parents to know whether the products they buy contain a toxic chemical. HF \_\_\_/ SF \_\_\_ would require a manufacturer to report their use of priority chemicals in children's products (ages 0 to 12) sold in Minnesota, which would enable state agencies to inform parents about which products contain priority chemicals. Safer alternatives do exist. While some major manufacturers have already taken the responsible path toward eliminating some priority chemicals from their products, this bill provides strong incentives for all manufacturers to phase out the use of these chemicals.

By eliminating unnecessary exposure to toxic chemicals in children's products, Minnesota will continue to be a national leader in protecting children and ensure our children are wearing, playing with and using the safest products on the market. Please contact me at 952-582-6000 or email at [mm@ldaminnesota.org](mailto:mm@ldaminnesota.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha Moriarty". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Martha Moriarty  
Executive Director  
LDA Minnesota

# Twin Cities METROiBA Independent Business Alliance

2190 Como Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108  
(651) 387-0738 | [buylocaltwincities.com](http://buylocaltwincities.com)

February 17, 2015

*The independent small business owners of the Metropolitan Independent Business Alliance recognize the need to reform the outdated regulations which govern our nation's chemical industry and the chemicals used in consumer products. The Minnesota Toxic Free Kids Act is a step in the right direction.*

*By asking manufacturers to report harmful chemicals present in children's products, manufacturers will have a clear incentive to switch to less toxic alternatives. And the retailers and other small businesses represented by MetroIBA will have a greater ability to choose healthier products on behalf of their customers.*

*Ultimately, we would like to see this type of reporting requirement expanded to all consumer and food products, not just products for children. We would also like to see this type of legislation exist at the national level, not just in a patchwork of states.*

*We appreciate the Toxic Free Kids Act's adaptations for small manufacturers. We believe very strongly that the final version of this law should not unduly burden small manufacturers and retailers who lack the resources available to big businesses. We also believe that any legislation involving retailers should also seek to regulate out of state internet companies selling to Minnesota customers, which represents a rapidly growing share of the marketplace.*

*We therefore encourage the Minnesota legislature to pass the Toxic Free Kids Act.*



Chris Hanson  
President  
MetroIBA

## BOARD MEMBERS

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Deanna Wiener  
Cardinal Realty

Linda Winsor  
Citizen Director



February 2, 2015

**RE: Support for Toxic Free Kids Act (HF 1276 / SF 1099)**

Dear Legislators,

The Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (MNCCD) urges your support for HF 1276 / SF 1099 which would help protect Minnesota's children from harmful chemicals, found in toys, shampoos and other products for children under 12 years old.

MN-CCD is broad-based coalition of advocacy and provider organizations working to change public policy to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Many people with disabilities are also parents of young children whose health is being put at risk by every day exposures to toxic chemicals in consumer products. The adverse impact of exposure to toxic chemicals on our children's health is a key public health issue. For this reason MNCCD joins with Healthy Legacy to support the Toxic Free Kids Act of 2015 to protect Minnesota's children from unnecessary exposures to harmful chemicals.

Incidences of learning disabilities, reproductive defects and other chronic health problems are on the rise. Many of these problems have been linked with exposure to toxic chemicals. The National Academy of Sciences estimates that combinations of environmental factors, including exposure to toxic chemicals, along with genetic susceptibility, **cause or contribute to at least 25% of learning and developmental disabilities in American children.**

The Minnesota Department of Health has identified nine priority chemicals in children's products that are considered the "worst of the worst:" lead, cadmium, three phthalates, bisphenol-A, two flame-retardants and formaldehyde. Some of these Priority chemicals impact neurodevelopment such as flame retardants added to children's nap mats, nursing pillows and a wide range of other products. Three major studies of pregnant women and children in the United States concluded children exposed in the womb to toxic flame retardant chemicals show impaired performance on neurodevelopmental tests. In repeated measurements of cognition, hundreds of children in New York, California and Ohio—exposed prenatally to everyday levels of flame retardant chemicals—showed measurable decreases in IQ and increases in hyperactivity.

There are few laws in the U.S. prohibiting the use of these chemicals and no way for parents to know whether the products they buy contain a toxic chemical. HF \_\_\_/ SF \_\_\_ would require a manufacturer to report their use of priority chemicals in children's products (ages 0 to 12) sold in Minnesota, which would enable state agencies to inform parents about which products contain priority chemicals. Safer alternatives do exist. While some major manufacturers have already taken the responsible path toward eliminating some priority chemicals from their products, this bill provides strong incentives for all manufacturers to phase out the use of these chemicals.

By eliminating unnecessary exposure to toxic chemicals in children's products, Minnesota will continue to be a national leader in protecting children and ensure our children are wearing, playing with and using the safest products on the market. You can contact me at 952-818-8718 or email at [rebecca@mnccd.org](mailto:rebecca@mnccd.org).

Sincerely,

Rebecca Covington  
Executive Director, Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities



January, 2015

**RE: Support for Toxic Free Kids Act (HF 1276 / SF 1099)**

Dear Legislators,

Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc. (Heartland CAA) urges your support for HF 1276 / SF 1099 which would help protect Minnesota's children from harmful chemicals, found in toys, shampoos and other products for children under 12 years old.

For over 45 years, Heartland CAA has been serving rural Minnesota by providing programming that strengthens and supports families such as early childhood education and childcare services. As an organization dedicated to healthy children and families, we are concerned about the adverse impacts of toxic chemicals on children's long term health. For this reason Heartland CAA joins with Healthy Legacy to support the Toxic Free Kids Act of 2015 to protect Minnesota's children from unnecessary exposures to harmful chemicals. Over the last several decades incidences of reproductive defects, early onset puberty, learning disabilities, and many other chronic health problems are on the rise. Many of these problems have been linked with exposure to toxic chemicals.

Of particular concern are those chemicals found in products children use every day, such as their school supplies. For example, phthalates, used in a variety of children's vinyl products including backpacks and lunch boxes, have been linked to developmental problems, such as premature breast development in girls, male genital defects, and reduced sperm quality. The Minnesota Department of Health has identified nine priority chemicals in children's products that are considered the "worst of the worst:" lead, cadmium, three phthalates, bisphenol-A, two flame-retardants and formaldehyde.

There are few laws in the U.S. prohibiting the use of these chemicals and no way for parents to know whether the products they buy contain a toxic chemical. HF \_\_\_/ SF \_\_\_ would require a manufacturer to report their use of priority chemicals in children's products (ages 0 to 12) sold in Minnesota, which would enable state agencies to inform parents about which products contain priority chemicals. Safer alternatives do exist. While some major manufacturers have already taken the responsible path toward eliminating some priority chemicals from their products, this bill provides strong incentives for all manufacturers to phase out the use of these chemicals.

By eliminating unnecessary exposure to toxic chemicals in children's products, Minnesota will continue to be a national leader in protecting children and ensure our children are wearing, playing with and using the safest products on the market. You can contact me at 320-235-0850 ext 614 or email at [juliej@heartlandcaa.org](mailto:juliej@heartlandcaa.org).

Sincerely,

Julie Jansen, Healthy Foundations Coordinator  
Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc.  
*Serving Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville counties since 1965*