

# SAFE BABY BOTTLE ACT

HB 1180/SB 6248 Prime Sponsors: Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson and Sen. Karen Keiser

## The Fundamentals:

This bill would protect our children and the environment by phasing out BPA in baby bottles, food and beverage cans, and other consumer products.



### →WHAT IS BPA?

The chemical bisphenol A (BPA) was developed as a synthetic sex hormone but is now used in common household materials, including some clear plastic water bottles, baby bottles, reusable food containers, and food cans. It is one of the highest-volume chemicals produced in the world.

### →BPA HARMS CHILDREN'S HEALTH

More and more evidence shows that BPA is harmful to children's health. Laboratory studies have linked it to cancer, miscarriage, obesity, reproductive problems, and hyperactivity. Yet manufacturers can still legally use BPA in products such as baby bottles, infant formula cans, and other food containers. Testing in 2007 by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) found 93 percent of Americans age six and up were exposed to BPA. Children in the study had the highest levels of BPA, followed by teens and adults.

### →WASHINGTON MUST LEAD

Washington state has established itself as a national leader in protecting children from toxic chemicals. In 2008, it enacted the nation's strongest standards for toxic chemicals in toys. This leadership directly led to the U.S. Congress passing legislation banning lead and phthalates in children's toys.



### →FOUR REASONS TO PASS THIS BILL

- 1. FDA Agrees that BPA is a Concern**  
Recently, the FDA reversed its opinion on the safety of BPA and announced that it is now concerned about the hormone-disrupting chemical's use in baby bottles and other food and beverage containers. The FDA's new decision and the uncertainty of swift federal action further underscores the need for the Washington state legislature to pass the bill.
- 2. Major Companies Already Phasing Out BPA**  
Chemical giant SUNOCO is now requiring customers to guarantee that BPA manufactured by SUNOCO is not used in food and water contact applications for children under three. In March of 2009, the top six major baby bottle manufacturers announced they would stop using BPA.
- 3. Safer, Cheaper Alternatives Available**  
Many companies are already making BPA-free alternatives. For baby bottles, BPA-free plastic bottles – as well as glass bottles – are available in stores.
- 4. Other Governments Taking Action Now**  
On March 30, 2009, Suffolk County, NY became the first jurisdiction to ban BPA in baby bottles and sippy cups. Minnesota and Connecticut have also recently passed laws banning the substance in food and beverage containers targeted to children. And finally, Canada has declared that BPA is hazardous to human health, and is developing regulations to ban BPA in baby bottles.

#### About the Environmental Priorities Coalition

Founded in 2003, the Environmental Priorities Coalition is a network of twenty-five leading environmental groups in Washington state that influence policy at the state level. For more information, visit [www.environmentalpriorities.org](http://www.environmentalpriorities.org).

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