



# RACHEL'S FRIENDS BREAST CANCER COALITION

## Study finds toxic chemicals in nearly all U.S. pregnant women

A recent study by UCSF researchers found that virtually all U.S. pregnant women carry multiple chemicals, including some banned since the 1970s and others used in common products such as non-stick cookware, processed foods and personal care products. Exposure to chemicals during fetal development increases the risk of preterm birth and birth defects, childhood disease, and adult disease and mortality.

Meanwhile, the outdated federal law governing chemicals in the U.S. – the 1976 [Toxic Substances Control Act \(TSCA\)](#) – remains on the books, despite being widely considered a failure

by both industry and public health groups.

"These findings should be a call to action for Congress and the Administra-

**Over the past 30 years, the EPA has required testing on just 200 chemicals and restricted only five.**

tion." said Andy Igrejas, director of the Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families coalition (Rachel's Friends is a coalition member.) "We've known for years that exposures in the womb to toxic chemicals have a profound

effect on the health of children.

"Federal chemical policy reform is the best approach for tackling this major issue," said Igrejas. "Recent polling shows strong bi-partisan support for cracking down on toxic chemicals. Eighteen states have taken action on chemicals since 2002, passing 71 different laws with overwhelming bi-partisan support."

Very little is known about the vast majority of the thousands of chemicals produced and used in the U.S. Over the past 30 years, the EPA has required testing on just 200 chemicals and

(Continued on page 3)

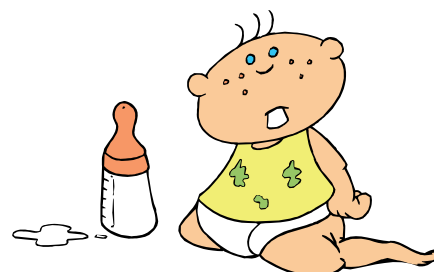
## Oregon BPA Baby Bottle Ban is Still Kicking!

(June 20) Oregon House Bill 3689 (the revised version of Senate Bill 695) has had a long and winding road through the 2011 Oregon Legislature. But children's health advocates saw an encouraging light down the tunnel when HB 3689 gained sponsor #31, which means it had enough "yes" votes to pass in the House. No one knows what will happen by the time you

read this, but there's a good chance that the bill will pass.

HB 3689 would ban the manufacture and sale of children's beverage containers or reusable bottles in Oregon if they're made or lined with bisphenol A (BPA). Ten states, including Washington, have similar laws, plus Canada and China. A Portland physician said he will sponsor a ballot measure to ban BPA

from Oregon beverage containers if the bill does not pass.



# Margaret Kripke PhD to speak on preventing environmental cancer

Tuesday, Oct. 11 \* 7 p.m.  
\* Kaiser Town Hall, 3704  
N. Interstate in Portland

Mark your calendar to hear this free talk. Dr. Kripke is a member of the President's Cancer Panel and co-author of the Panel's groundbreaking report, [Reducing Environmental Cancer Risk: What We Can Do Now.](#)

Dr. Kripke says that existing chemical laws do not protect public health. Many known cancer-causing chemicals are still unregulated. Less than 2% of the 80,000 chemicals in commercial use have been tested to see if they cause cancer. "Estimates of environmentally induced cancers

are grossly underestimated."

Dr. Kripke is working for a precautionary approach to chemical management, where industry must prove a chemical is safe before it can be sold. She calls for a national cancer prevention plan. Dr. Kripke challenges us to tell our elected officials to prioritize cancer prevention, demand more research into environmental causes of cancer, and hold the government accountable for making sure that consumer products, the air we breathe, and water we drink are free of toxic chemicals.

Please email [rachelsfriendsbcc@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsfriendsbcc@gmail.com) or call 503-777-2761 to reserve your seat.

## How Can We Create a Nuclear-Free World?

Join our friends at Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility and learn how you can help build a nuclear-free future.

- **Sunday, August 7, 1-4 pm (speakers 2-3 pm)**
- **Portland Waterfront at NW Naito Parkway & Couch**

Radiation causes cancer. No exposure is safe. Learn about alternatives to nuclear power.

[www.psr.org/chapters/oregon/assets/pdfs/how-can-we-create-a.pdf](http://www.psr.org/chapters/oregon/assets/pdfs/how-can-we-create-a.pdf)

## We appreciate your donations. Thank you!

- From **Kelsi Deters-McCarthy** "in memory of my dearest sister Rita McDonagh"
- From **Barbara Hanawalt** in honor of her first grandchild, Kawai Ola Hanawalt. "May he live healthy in a pollution-free toxic-free world."
- From **Diane Lund-Muzikant** in memory of her brother, Alan Siegel
- From **Isabelle Zifcak** in memory of Carol Elizabeth Brossard

**Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition** is a non-profit Oregon advocacy organization dedicated to lowering the incidence of breast and other cancers by reducing our exposure to environmental carcinogens. We do this through education, legislative action, and organizing for change on behalf of Oregonians.

We honor Rachel Carson, a biologist and writer who died of breast cancer. Her 1962 book *Silent Spring* exposed the dangers of pesticides.

We support the **Precautionary Principle (better safe than sorry)**. We should act **now** to reduce our exposure to known and suspected carcinogens even if cause and effect relationships are not firmly established.

### Board of Directors

Diane Lund-Muzikant, Chair  
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Mail a check with your name, address, and e-mail to the PO box above.

(Continued from page 1)

restricted only five. Even well-known carcinogens such as lead, asbestos, and formaldehyde are still legal.

Researchers found PCBs, pesticides, PFCs, phenols, phthalates, and perchlorate in 99-100% of pregnant women. Also found were PBDEs (flame retardants) banned in many states including California, and DDT, a pesticide banned in the U.S. in 1972.

**Bisphenol A (BPA)** was identified in 96% of the women. Prenatal exposure to BPA affects fetal brain development and increases cancer risk later in life.

<http://ehp03.niehs.nih.gov/article/info:doi/10.1289/ehp.1002727>



### Are you ready?

We're looking for a few new board members who are ready to commit 2 to 4 hours per month to education, advocacy, and organizing for change. If you'd like to visit a board meeting, call 503-777-2761 or email [rachelsfriendsbcc@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsfriendsbcc@gmail.com).

## Multnomah County Library Takes Two Steps toward Sustainability

The Multnomah County Library in Oregon demonstrated its commitment to sustainability with two changes.

All library locations have **switched to Bisphenol A-free receipt paper** in response to recent scientific

studies that raise concerns about exposure to this chemical.

Also, to help keep toxic chemicals out of landfills, all library locations will recycle your cell phone at no charge.

## To Editor, *The Oregonian* and President Barack Obama: Put a moratorium on new nuclear facilities in the U.S.

Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition is a non-profit advocacy group based in Portland, Oregon. Our mission is to lower the incidence of breast and other cancers by reducing human exposure to environmental carcinogens, including radiation.

We express our sorrow and sympathy to the people of Japan. Recent events have caused terrible damage to their nuclear reactors, with an unknown amount of radiation released into the environment.

We must learn from this accident. After Chernobyl, we should have become more cautious about relying on nuclear power. We need to reevaluate our commitment to this dangerous energy source. **We ask President Obama to put a moratorium on new nuclear facilities in the U.S. until we can evaluate and enhance the safety and stability of active nuclear power**

**plants in the United States. We oppose loan subsidies for new reactors.**

Nuclear power leaves a massive, toxic legacy of radioactive waste for future generations. There is **no safe level of exposure to radiation**. The National Academies' Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR) VII report confirms that any exposure to radiation increases a person's risk of cancer. Extremely low doses of radiation increase the incidence of childhood cancers, low birth-weight babies, premature births, infant mortality, birth defects, and even diminished intelligence.

Japan did not have the necessary protection to maintain safe operations of its reactors. The cost to public health is incalculable. We want better for the citizens of Oregon, the United States, and planet Earth.

**Rachel's Friends  
Board of Directors**

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To learn more about the Pre-existing Condition Plan, call toll free **1-866-717-5826** (TDD: 866-561-1604) from 8 a.m. until 11 p.m. EST (5 a.m. until 8 p.m. on the West Coast).

Or, search by your state at  
[www.pcip.gov/StatePlans.html](http://www.pcip.gov/StatePlans.html).

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**Thank you,  
volunteers!**

Liandra Chapman, Marilyn  
Grendele, Susan Newman,  
Mark Williams