

1 **H-135.997 Promoting Environmental Health**

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3 Our AMA urges more active involvement in solving and preventing environmental health
4 problems. (Res. 55, I-69; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. C, A-89; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, A-00;
5 Reaffirmed in lieu of Res. 417, A-04)

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AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 427
(A-08)

Introduced by: Washington Delegation

Subject: Encouraging Safer Chemicals Policies and Regulatory Reform of Industrial
Chemicals to Protect and Improve Human Health

Referred to: Reference Committee D
(Robert T. M. Phillips, MD, PhD, Chair)

1 Whereas, The US chemical industry designs, produces, and imports 42 billion pounds of
2 chemical substances per day with global production growing a projected four-fold by 2050^{i,ii};
3 and

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5 Whereas, Many of these substances useful to society are also known to be hazardous to human
6 biology and ecological systems, with harmful chemical exposures posing the greatest threat to
7 children and women before and through reproductive age, impacting children's health,
8 development, behavior and learning, with exposures to neurotoxic chemicals in critical child
9 development periods linked to lifelong deficits in brain functionⁱⁱⁱ; and

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11 Whereas, The federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) of 1976 (P.L. 94-469), broadly
12 intended to enable regulation of chemicals both before and after they enter commerce--has,
13 according to multiple independent analyses^{iv,v,vi,vii,viii,ix,x,xi}, fallen short of its objectives and
14 consequently not served as an effective vehicle for the public, industry, or government to *assess*
15 the hazards of chemicals in commerce or *control* those of greatest health concern; and

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17 Whereas, These market conditions have failed to safeguard health, creating problems that include
18 the appearance of hundreds of industrial chemicals in human tissues and fluids including the cord
19 blood of infants^{xii xiii}; the development of chronic diseases and premature death related to
20 chemical exposures in the workplace; and disproportionate risks due to chemical exposures
21 among members of minority, immigrant, and low-income communities^{xiv}; and

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23 Whereas, AMA-stated policy "supports the implementation of risk reduction practices by the
24 chemical and manufacturing industries"^{xv}; therefore be it

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1 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support restructuring of the Toxic
2 Substances Control Act to: 1) require chemical producers to provide comprehensive chemical
3 hazard information in forms that are appropriate for use by the public, workers, industry, and
4 government; 2) serve as a vehicle to help federal and state agencies to efficiently assess the
5 human and environmental hazards of chemicals in commercial use and reduce the use of those of
6 greatest concern; and 3) introduce complementary federal mechanisms to motivate investment,
7 education, and research in safer ('green') chemical technology. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Implement accordingly at estimated staff cost of \$4,365.

Received: 05/07/08

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

H-135.956 Human and Environmental Health Impacts of Chlorinated Chemicals

The AMA: (1) encourages the Environmental Protection Agency to base its evaluations of the potential public health and environmental risks posed by exposure to an individual chlorinated organic compound, other industrial compound, or manufacturing process on reliable data specific to that compound or process; (2) encourages the chemical industry to increase knowledge of the environmental behavior, bioaccumulation potential, and toxicology of their products and by-products; and (3) supports the implementation of risk reduction practices by the chemical and manufacturing industries. (Sub. Res. 503, A-94; Reaffirmation I-98)

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- i American Chemistry Council. Guide to the Business of Chemistry, p 37. Arlington, Virginia: American Chemistry Council, 2003.
- ii Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Environmental Outlook for the Chemicals Industry (<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/7/45/2375538.pdf>) (accessed February 8, 2006). p. 34-36, 2001
- iii Chemicals in the environment and developmental toxicity in children: A public health and policy perspective. *Environmental Health Perspective*, 108 (3), S443-S448; Goldman, L.R. and Koduru, S.H. (2000). (<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/members/2003/6115/6115.html>)
- iv National Academy of Sciences Commission on Life Sciences. Toxicology Testing: Strategies to Determine Needs and Priorities. Washington, D.C.:National Academy of Sciences Press, 1984.
- v United States General Accounting Office. Toxic Substances Control Act: Legislative Changes Could Make the Act More Effective (GAO/RCED-94-103). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1994.
- vi Congress of the United States Office of Technology Assessment. Screening and Testing of Chemicals in Commerce: Background Paper. Washington, D.C.:U.S. Government Printing Office, 1995.
- vii Roe D, Pease W, Florini K, Silbergeld E. Toxic Ignorance: The Continuing Absence of Basic Health Testing for Top-Selling Chemicals in the United States (<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/pdf.cfm?ContentID=243&FileName=toxicignorance.pdf>) (accessed February 12, 2005). Washington, D.C.:Environmental Defense, 1997.
- viii U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Chemical Hazard Data Availability Study (<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/chemtest/hazchem.htm>) (accessed June 15, 2005). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1998.
- ix Goldman L. Preventing pollution? U.S. toxic chemicals and pesticides policies and sustainable development. *Environmental Law Review* 32:11018-11041(2002).
- x United States Government Accountability Office. Chemical Regulation: Options Exist to Improve EPA's Ability to Assess Health Risks and Manage its Chemicals Review Program. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2005.
- xi Wilson, Chia, Ehlers. Green Chemistry in California: A Framework for Leadership in Chemicals Policy and Innovation (http://coeh.berkeley.edu/news/06_wilson_policy.htm) (accessed March 15, 2007). Special Report to the California Legislature. University of California Policy Research Center, Office of the President (2006).
- xii Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2005. The Third National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. (<http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/>) (accessed May 11, 2007).
- xiii Houlihan J et al. 2005. Body Burden: The Pollution in Newborns. (www.ewg.org) (accessed May 11, 2007). Environmental Working Group: Washington, DC.
- xiv Wilson, Chia, Ehlers. Green Chemistry in California: A Framework for Leadership in Chemicals Policy and Innovation (http://coeh.berkeley.edu/news/06_wilson_policy.htm) (accessed March 15, 2007). Special Report to the California Legislature. University of California Policy Research Center, Office of the President (2006).
- xv American Medical Association Policy # H-135.956. Human and Environmental Health Impacts of Chlorinated Chemicals. (www.ama-assn.org/apps/pf_new/pf_online?f_n=resultLink&doc=policyfiles/HnE/H-