



Bipartisan Action to Protect Reproductive Health: Senators Lautenberg and Vitter Introduce “Chemicals Safety Improvement Act”

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Statement by Susannah Baruch, Interim President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project on the introduction of the [Chemicals Safety Improvement Act](#).

“We applaud Senator Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Senator Vitter (R-LA) for introducing the Chemicals Safety Improvement Act, a bipartisan effort to reform our nation’s outdated and ineffective chemical regulation policies. This legislation will provide much needed updates to our nation’s chemical regulatory system, changes that will improve the health of all Americans.

Products we use every day, from plastic bottles to our furniture, contain untested chemicals that have been linked to a host of alarming reproductive health issues that impair a woman’s ability to become pregnant and maintain a healthy pregnancy.

The Chemicals Safety Improvement Act will help fix a broken system. After 40 years, the Chemicals Safety Improvement Act would finally grant the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to assess chemicals for their impact on women’s health and the environment.

We encourage the EPA to set clear timetables for the implementation of these important regulatory changes, especially concerning communities most impacted by the harms of toxic chemicals.

We hope bipartisan action on this pressing reproductive health issue will ensure the bill’s swift passage through Congress.”

Background: The Chemicals Safety Improvement Act will provide long overdue reform of the 36-year-old federal law that regulates toxic chemicals, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). This new legislation would give the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) significantly stronger authority to test and regulate the 84,000 chemicals on the market today. Studies have linked exposure to many commonly used chemicals, such as bisphenol A (BPA) and phthalates, to a host of reproductive health problems including infertility, miscarriage, birth defects, early puberty in girls, low sperm counts, and breast cancer.