



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES PROJECT

Why the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act Is Insufficient to Protect Reproductive Health

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Washington, DC – Today, Senators Tom Udall (D-NM) and David Vitter (R-LA) introduced the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. In its current form the bill does not sufficiently protect public health--including reproductive health, fetal development, and fertility--particularly for the most vulnerable communities. As such, the Reproductive Health Technologies Project (RHTP) must oppose this legislation in its current form.

Jessica Arons, President and CEO of RHTP issued the following statement:

“We need real reform to fix a broken system that hasn’t been updated in almost 40 years.

While we are all exposed to toxic chemicals, low-income women and women of color are more likely to be directly exposed to toxic chemicals at work, at home, and through consumer products.

Increased exposure to these harmful chemicals means these women are also more likely to experience early puberty, infertility, uterine fibroids, and other reproductive health problems that have been linked to toxic chemicals. Compounding the problem, women of color and low-income women are less likely to have access to health insurance or quality, affordable care to prevent and address health problems that may have environmental causes.

This unfortunate reality underscores the need for meaningful comprehensive chemical policy reform. The current version of the bill would unnecessarily tie the hands of states to address toxic exposures, would reduce enforcement, and would make it harder for the Environmental Protection Agency to keep a chemical it finds unsafe out of consumer products.

While fights continue over abortion, chemical safety reform presents a rare opportunity for pro-choice and pro-life Members of Congress to work together to protect the health and well-being of women and their families. We urge Senators from both parties to make needed improvements to the bill so that genuine chemical safety reform can move forward.”

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