

**AAP Headquarters**

141 Northwest Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1019
Phone: 847/434-4000
Fax: 847/434-8000
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org
www.aap.org

Reply to**Department of Federal Affairs**

Homer Building, Suite 400 N
601 13th St NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202/347-8600
Fax: 202/393-6137
E-mail: kids1st@aap.org

Executive Committee**President**

Thomas K. McInerney, MD, FAAP

President-Elect

James M. Perrin, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President

Robert W. Block, MD, FAAP

Executive Director/CEO

Errol R. Alden, MD, FAAP

Board of Directors**District I**

Carole E. Allen, MD, FAAP
Arlington, MA

District II

Danielle Laraque, MD, FAAP
Brooklyn, NY

District III

David I. Bromberg, MD, FAAP
Frederick, MD

District IV

Francis E. Rushton, Jr, MD, FAAP
Beaufort, SC

District V

Marilyn J. Bull, MD, FAAP
Indianapolis, IN

District VI

Pamela K. Shaw, MD, FAAP
Kansas City, KS

District VII

Kenneth E. Matthews, MD, FAAP
College Station, TX

District VIII

Kyle Yasuda, MD, FAAP
Seattle, WA

District IX

Stuart A. Cohen, MD, MPH, FAAP
San Diego, CA

District X

Sara H. Goza, MD, FAAP
Fayetteville, GA

June 14, 2013

The Honorable David Vitter
Ranking Member, Senate Committee
on Environment and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Vitter:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I am writing to clarify the AAP position on chemical management reform legislation.

While the AAP applauded the display of bipartisanship, we have not endorsed the *Chemical Safety Improvement Act*. In the May 29 New York Times editorial "An Opening to Strengthen Chemical Regulations," the AAP was erroneously listed as an endorser.

Environmental, public health, industry and consumer groups all agree that TSCA reform is long overdue. The law is outdated, ineffective and fails to offer protections against the tens of thousands of chemicals that have come onto the market since its passage more than 35 years ago, like phthalate plasticizers. The linkage between chemical exposure and cancer, developmental disabilities, asthma and other health conditions is well-established. Yet, Congress has been unable to approve meaningful TSCA reform since 1976.

The *Chemical Safety Improvement Act* represents *potential* for progress but amendments are needed. TSCA legislation must protect public health; apply reasonable standards to a broad number of chemicals; utilize common scientific standards and, most importantly, must consider the needs of pregnant women and children, principles that are consistent with AAP policy. The challenge rests on Senate leaders to maintain bipartisanship while also incorporating meaningful public health protections, especially for children, who are uniquely susceptible to the harms of chemical exposures. Anything less will harm child health and fail to earn AAP endorsement.

If we may provide further information or otherwise be of assistance, please contact the AAP Department of Federal Affairs, at 202-347-8600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas K. McInerney MD".

Thomas K. McInerney, MD, FAAP
TKM/scc