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## **Consumer-Based Companies Urge Congress to Require Disclosure of Chemical Ingredients from Manufacturers**

**(Washington, DC) – As Congress looks to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), a group of companies that use chemicals in their products sold to consumers today urged Congress to require chemical manufacturers to provide transparency and disclosure of what ingredients are used.** TSCA has not been updated since it was passed 34 years ago, leaving the public exposed to chemicals that have not undergone sufficient health and safety testing. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has only required testing on approximately 200 of the more than 80,000 chemicals on the market. This is a major public health hazard that must be addressed.

With Congress poised to make long overdue reforms to the federal law that regulates chemicals, there is a loophole that permits chemical producers to avoid disclosing ingredients to companies that use them in their products. Therefore, consumer product manufacturers don't know if their products contain toxic chemicals. Any legislation to update federal chemicals policy must address this issue.

“As we strive to advance an economy where the production and use of chemicals are not harmful for humans or the environment around us, we invest significant time and resources. When we were testing alternatives to vinyl flooring, we had to invent our own testing protocol and use in-house certified industrial hygienists to perform tests to understand the health impacts of the alternatives. That degree of investment is simply not feasible for most products and materials we buy, nor is it possible for smaller organizations that do not have the resources and organizational skills that Kaiser Permanente has developed over decades. Mechanisms are needed to support downstream users in procuring the safest products and materials for our needs.” – **Kathy Gerwig, Vice President, Workplace Safety and Environmental Stewardship Officer, Kaiser Permanente**

“While Catholic Healthcare West has done much to play detective, to find out the toxic chemicals in the supplies we use and create markets for safer alternatives, there is only so much one individual organization can do to change the toxic chemical economy. The moral and operational imperatives are here, now, for health care to support safer chemicals reform. This isn't just a fight between environmentalists and the chemical industry, it's really about who cares for human health. If chemicals reform reduced toxic chemical exposures that translated into just a tenth of one percent reduction in health care costs, it would save the U.S. health care system an estimated \$5 billion every year.” - **Rachelle Wenger, Director of Public Policy and Community Advocacy, Catholic Healthcare West**

“If done right, federal chemicals policy reform will support the market movement to safer alternatives to toxic chemicals in products. Downstream users need: comprehensive hazard data as soon as possible for all chemicals on the market; to know the chemicals in the components they buy; government to take action on the chemicals of highest concern to human health and the environment; and safer alternatives. Congress, through a wisely designed safer chemicals policy reform will improve indoor air quality and thereby human health and the environment if the policies address the needs of downstream users.” - **Howard Williams, Vice President, Construction Specialties**

“Downstream businesses, consumers, investors and governments need chemicals and products that have low to no toxicity and degrade into innocuous substances in the environment. But the current lack of data on the hazardous properties of chemicals and their presence in products -- along with other weaknesses in the existing regulatory structure -- makes it extremely difficult to meet this need. While a handful of businesses and health care organizations require full or partial disclosure of chemicals in products from their suppliers, and a few suppliers publicly provide such information, government action is needed to instill transparency on chemical ingredients in products.” – **Mark Rossi, Research Director, Clean Production Action and Chair of Business-NGO Working Group (BizNGO)**

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