

and the district. I am honored to pay tribute to MSOE.

CONGRATULATING KAZAKHSTAN ON CONSTITUTIONAL DAY

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEAGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVEAGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kazakhstan on its Constitution Day. Kazakhstan celebrates Constitution Day on August 30.

Constitution Day is one of the most important state holidays in the country. On August 30, 1995, as a result of a nationwide referendum, Kazakhstan's Constitution—the supreme national law—was adopted establishing the rules and principles of building Kazakhstan as an independent, sovereign, and economically liberal, democracy.

All internationally recognized rights and freedoms are enshrined in the Constitution, thus making it a modern and progressive basis for a sustainable movement towards a full-fledged democratic system. Democracy is a gradual process and so I commend President Nursultan Nazarbayev for his extraordinary leadership in bringing about equality and unity, and in guaranteeing the growth and well-being of every citizen of the country.

Constitutional amendments approved in May 2007 will cede the powers of the President to the Parliament in a thoughtful way that protects the country's sovereignty and the rights of its citizens. The Constitution allows for accelerated economic reform while maintaining political and social stability and the Constitution consolidates the values the people of Kazakhstan have held for many centuries. It also consolidates unity among more than 120 nationalities of Kazakhstan.

In tribute to President Nazarbayev and all that he has accomplished for and on behalf of the people of Kazakhstan, I enter this statement for the historical record. President Nazarbayev has spared no effort in securing the rights to life and liberty for all Kazakhstanis. Because of his vision, Kazakhstan is also Central Asia's leader and a global leader on issues of importance, including nuclear non-proliferation.

So, once more, I congratulate the people of Kazakhstan on Constitution Day, and I send them my very best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous future.

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge August 11 through 17, 2013, as National Health Center Week. America's community health centers are at the core of our health care system; the nation's safety net, delivering accessible, high quality, cost effective primary and preventative care to all individuals regardless of their ability to pay.

Health centers, located in medically underserved areas and locally-controlled by patient-majority boards, make each health center responsive to the needs of the individual community it serves. Currently, there are more than 1,200 health centers serving as health homes for more than 22 million individuals at more than 9,000 locations across the country.

Health centers offer patient-focused, coordinated health care—preventive and primary care that families and individuals need, where and when they need it.

Health centers employ more than 9,500 physicians and more than 6,300 nurse practitioners, physician assistants, certified nurse midwives, social workers, case managers, and community health workers. These employees are part of a multi-disciplinary clinical team designed to treat the whole patient; coordinating care and managing chronic disease, at the same time reducing unnecessary, avoidable and wasteful use of health resources.

The health home model that health centers use is at the forefront of pioneering and goes beyond primary medical care. They provide behavioral health and dental services, case management and enabling services to ensure care is provided in an efficient and timely manner.

The health center model has proven to be an effective means of overcoming access barriers for the medically underserved. In doing so, health care outcomes are improved and health care costs are reduced. This unique model allows health centers to save the healthcare system approximately \$24 billion annually by keeping patients out of costlier health care settings, such as emergency rooms.

As locally owned and operated small businesses, health centers serve as critical economic engines helping to power local economies, particularly in times of recession. In these difficult economic times, health centers are economic drivers in their communities. In 2009 alone, health centers generated \$20 billion in combined economic impact and were responsible for creating nearly 200,000 jobs in areas hit hardest by the recession.

This year, over 400 communities nationwide submitted applications seeking a health center with only 25 new centers anticipated, demonstrating an overwhelming demand for access to comprehensive primary care across the nation. Health centers are expected to become the health care home for many new patients, but the demand for health centers continues to outpace growth, considering many existing health centers are already at capacity. Health centers are committed to expanding and meeting the needs of the communities they serve in order to grow their reach to more individuals who lack regular access to a health care home.

National Health Center Week offers the opportunity to recognize America's health centers, their staff, board members, and all those responsible for the continued success and growth of the program since its creation almost 50 years ago. During this National Health Center Week, we recognize the multitude of ways in which America's Health Centers transform care in local communities by delivering comprehensive, high quality, cost effective, and accessible health care.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the community health centers in recognizing

August 11 through 17, 2013 at National Health Center Week. I encourage everyone to visit their local health center and celebrate the important partnership between America's Health Centers and the communities they serve.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE NUTRITION

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Council for Responsible Nutrition (CRN) on its 40th Anniversary.

CRN is the leading trade association representing dietary supplement manufacturers, ingredient suppliers, and companies that supply services for the supplement industry—all of which are committed to responsible industry.

CRN was formed in 1973 by three companies, with the primary objective to establish an association of dietary supplement companies with a strong commitment to science, research and a collaborative approach to working with Congress and government agencies on issues that affect dietary supplements and nutrition.

As the respected voice of the dietary supplement industry, CRN has been at the forefront of supporting landmark legislation and regulation that benefit consumers; playing a key role in the passage of the Nutrition Labeling Education Act of 1990 and the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA).

CRN worked collaboratively with the Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Trade Commission on the implementation of DSHEA, urging the creation and promulgation of Good Manufacturing Practices specific to dietary supplements, and created a voluntary, self-regulatory advertising review program to monitor false, deceptive and misleading dietary supplement advertising.

For consumers, the "Life . . . Supplemented" campaign exemplifies CRN's commitment to helping individuals create a healthier lifestyle by offering actionable suggestions and educational information about the three pillars of a smart wellness regimen: healthy diet, exercise and dietary supplements.

M. Speaker, CRN has created an environment that allows companies to responsibly develop, manufacture and market dietary supplements and nutritional ingredients that enable consumers to live healthier lives. It continues to serve as a credible and respected scientific resource for Congress, regulators, scientists, journalists and consumers on all matters related to dietary supplements, including demonstrating the health-related and economic benefits that dietary supplements can provide.

As a co-chair of the Dietary Supplement Caucus, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Council for Responsible Nutrition on its anniversary, as well as the influence it has had on the dietary supplements over its 40-year history, and the promise it gives for industry and consumers alike in the years to come.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
DECREASE UNSAFE TOXINS ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Decrease Unsafe Toxins (D.U.S.T.) Act, which would ban children's cushioned products that contain an unacceptable level of toxic flame retardant chemicals. In doing so, this bill would reduce infant and children exposure to these harmful chemicals.

This bill would set a maximum level of 1,000 parts per million for the toxic chemicals in the filling materials used in products, such as high chairs, strollers, bouncers, infant walkers, changing pads, and baby carriers.

Studies clearly show that exposure to these toxic chemicals may be associated with cancer, birth defects, immune disruption, reproductive disorders, hormonal imbalances, and neurologic and mental development disorders. Toddlers who crawl in the dust and put their hands in their mouths have three to four times the levels of toxic flame retardants in their bodies compared to their parents. This is at an age when their neurological and reproductive organs are still developing and they are the most vulnerable to the toxic effects of the chemicals.

In addition to the potential health hazards, flame retardants have not been found to significantly improve fire safety or prevent ignitions from small flame sources. According to data from fire protection groups, such as the National Fire Protection Association, no fire safety benefit exists from including flame retardant chemicals in these products.

Our current regulatory system does not protect our children from such toxic chemicals. We must act now to help reduce our exposure and protect our most vulnerable, our children.

The legislation has been endorsed by the Green Science Policy Institute, Women's Voices for the Earth, Clean Production Action, Physicians for Social Responsibility, First Focus, Environmental Working Group, Zero to Three, IKEA North America Services, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), Children's Defense Fund, and Alaska Community Action on Toxins. I hereby submit for the RECORD letters of support from these organizations and urge the House of Representatives to consider this bill to improve the health of infants and kids in communities across America.

GREEN SCIENCE POLICY INSTITUTE,
Berkeley, CA, July 17, 2013.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN DeLAURO: The Green Science Policy Institute is writing in support of the Decrease Unsafe Toxins (DUST) Act that will be introduced in the 113th Congress. The DUST Act seeks to amend the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 to ban flame retardant chemicals from use in resilient filling materials in children's products.

At Green Science Policy Institute independent research and scientific integrity guide our mission to promote responsible use of chemicals, ensuring a healthy planet for current and future generations. We provide unbiased scientific data to facilitate informed decision-making about the use of chemicals in consumer products. We encourage scientists to use their research in the public interest. We are currently focusing on

reducing the use of unnecessary flame retardants due to their adverse impacts on human and environmental health.

Flame retardant chemicals are currently added to the foam of baby products and furniture to meet California Furniture Flammability Standard Technical Bulletin 117 (TB117). Flame retardant use in California furniture and juvenile products to meet 1B117 has not led to a measurable improvement in fire safety. The use of some halogenated flame retardants may actually decrease fire safety since they can increase the amount of soot, smoke, carbon monoxide and other toxic gases produced when a product does burn. The soot and smoke can impede escape and toxic gases, rather than flames, are the largest cause of fire deaths. Importantly, baby products do not pose a fire hazard.

TB117 is scheduled to be updated on January 1, 2014 so flame retardants will no longer be needed in children's product foam in California. DUST Act legislation will align with this important change.

Working in collaboration with researchers at Duke University and the San Francisco Estuary Institute, Green Science Policy Institute collected foam samples from baby products and found that 80% of products tested contained chemical flame retardants which are either known to be associated with adverse health effects or lack adequate health information.

Children and infants are most sensitive to the adverse health effects of these chemicals, some of which have been linked with reduced IQ, learning disorders, reduced fertility, thyroid disruption and cancer. Babies are born with these chemicals in their bodies and get a further dose from their mother's milk and exposure to baby products.

The average American home can contain pound levels of these chemicals. Flame retardant chemicals leak from products into dust. Dust gets on hands and food. Babies and children crawl, sit and play on the floor where dust settles. They explore the world by putting things in their mouths.

We urge Congress to adopt the DUST Act to protect infants and children from these unnecessary harmful toxins.

Sincerely,

DR. ARLENE BLUM,
Executive Director.

DR. VEENA SINGLA,
Associate.

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY—LOS ANGELES,

Los Angeles, CA, July 30, 2013.

Re Support the Decrease Unsafe Toxins (DUST) Act

Congresswoman ROSA DeLAURO,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN DeLAURO: On behalf of Physicians for Social Responsibility—Los Angeles, we write to express our strong support for the Decrease Unsafe Toxins (DUST) Act that will be introduced in the 113th Congress. The DUST Act amends the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 to ban flame retardant chemicals from use in the resilient filling materials in infant and children's products.

PSR-LA is a 5,000 member strong organization representing physicians and other health professionals dedicated to promoting healthy communities and advocating for social and environmental justice. We have a long history of educating the medical community about the gravest environmental threats to human health, and working to eliminate health inequalities caused by environmental exposures.

Flame retardant chemicals have been added to the filling materials of children

products and furniture to meet the California Standard Technical Bulletin (TB) 117, which has become the de facto national standard for furniture manufacturers. Flame retardant chemicals continuously migrate out of household products and settle into dust, which is inhaled and ingested by people and pets.

Research shows that exposure to toxic flame retardant chemicals can be associated with increased cancer, neurological deficits, developmental problems and reduced fertility. Although some flame retardants were removed from children's sleepwear in the 1970s, similar flame retardants continue to be used in children products such as nursing pillows, car seats, sleeping wedges, portable crib mattresses, baby carriers, strollers and changing table pads, despite the fact that these products do not pose a fire hazard. Toddlers who crawl in the dust and put their hands in their mouths have the some of the highest levels of toxic flame retardant chemicals in their bodies. This is at an age when their neurological and reproductive organs are still developing and they are highly vulnerable to the toxic effects of the chemicals.

California is revising its TB 117 because of the strong evidence that flame retardants used to meet the standard have not provided greater protection from fires, and can in fact make fires more dangerous. While this standard revision is a positive change, companies will not be required to abandon the use of flame retardant chemicals. For that reason, the DUST Act is necessary to protect children from toxic chemicals, and we urge its immediate passage.

Sincerely,

ANA MASCAREÑAS,
Policy & Communications Director.

MARTHA DINA ARGÜELLO,
Executive Director.

PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP
(PIRG), FEDERATION OF STATE
PIRGs,

Washington, DC, July 26, 2013.

Hon. ROSA DeLAURO,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN DeLAURO: We write in support of the Decrease Unsafe Toxins (DUST) Act that will be introduced in the 113th Congress. The DUST Act amends the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 to ban toxic flame retardant chemicals from use in the resilient filling materials in infant and children's products. Accumulation of flame retardant chemicals in humans and animals and adverse health effects in animals have been well documented in a large body of peer reviewed literature. Studies have found associations between high levels and reduced IQ in children, endocrine and thyroid disruption, changes in male hormone levels and reduced fertility, increased time to become pregnant in women, adverse birth outcomes, impaired development, and cancer. Children are especially at risk for exposure to flame retardants in household dust because they crawl on floors and have the tendency to put hands, toys, and other objects in their mouths. In addition to the potential for adverse health effects from exposure to toxic flame retardants, infants and children to have critical periods of development during which exposure to toxic substances can cause increased susceptibility to disease, which might not become apparent until later in life.¹ Finally, adding flame retardant chemicals to baby products has not been shown to be effective in saving life or property.

Manufacturers put flame retardant chemicals into baby products to meet Technical