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August 3, 2011

The Honorable James Moran
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Moran:

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), an 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, would like to express our support for the Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals Exposure Elimination Act, H.R. 2521.

Over the past several decades, tens of thousands of chemicals have entered commerce and the environment, often in extremely large quantities. At the same time, there has been a significant increase of information about special vulnerabilities and differential exposures that children and pregnant women experience as a result of environmental toxicants. As children grow and mature, their bodies may be especially vulnerable to certain chemical exposures during critical windows of development. In particular, children's endocrine systems have demonstrated sensitivity to environmental toxicants at specific stages of growth.

In the AAP's recent policy statement "Chemical Management Policy: Prioritizing Children's Health," the AAP recommends that policies in the United States be revised to protect children and pregnant women from chemical and toxicant exposures. The AAP encourages the federal government to prioritize research to prevent, identify, and evaluate the effects of child exposures to chemicals, as well as increase funding to support studies examining long-term and subclinical chemical effects.

The Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals Exposure Elimination Act would fill an obvious gap in the federal government's management of chemicals and provide the resources and information necessary to protect children and adults from the adverse health impacts of endocrine disrupting chemicals. The AAP is pleased to support this legislation which would establish a panel of experts through the National Toxicology Program's Board of Scientific Counselors to evaluate existing research and identify future research of endocrine disrupting chemicals. The panel would develop and update an annual list of chemicals of concern, advise the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and provide information to Congress regarding the human health impacts of endocrine disruptors. The AAP is pleased that this legislation will result in the strengthening of the scientific information used by federal agencies to understand

the effects of and reduce exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals, as consensus in the scientific community is needed on methods and biomarkers to identify and evaluate chemicals for adverse effects through endocrine disruption.

For any chemical determined to be an actual or potential endocrine disruptor, H.R. 2521 requires that the level of evidence, the level of concern, and the pathways of exposure of those chemicals be determined. In addition, when a chemical reaches the minimum level of concern, the FDA and EPA must develop a strategy to reduce exposure and work with industry to implement measures to reduce human exposure. Further, if there is a high level of concern for a specific chemical, the chemical would be banned unless the pathways to human exposure are mitigated. The AAP strongly supports this process to prevent and diminish potentially damaging and dangerous endocrine disruptors.

The AAP commends you for your dedication to protecting the health and well-being of all our nation's children. We look forward to working with you to support H.R. 2521 as it moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "O. Marion Burton MD".

O. Marion Burton, MD FAAP
President

OMB:km