

**Calling Upon The Governor To Sign Legislation Regulating Toxic Chemicals In Children's Products, Protecting Children's Health**

Referred to: The Public Health & Social Services Committee (Chairman Lopez and Legislators Collins, Brenda Maloney, Nolan, and Petit)

Chairwoman Tracey A. Bartels and Legislator Mary Wawro offer the following:

WHEREAS, the County of Ulster strives to be a leader in protecting the health and safety of its residents, including children, who, because they are developing are among the most vulnerable members of our community; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of known toxic chemicals are used to make children's products without restriction or basic reporting that would allow parents to make informed decisions; and

WHEREAS, many children's products contain chemicals that are linked to cancer, asthma and other health problems; and

WHEREAS, some of these chemicals include benzene, mercury, formaldehyde, asbestos and cobalt; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill A6296A and Senate Bill 501B passed with bipartisan support in the 2019-2020 Legislative Session to amend the Environmental Conservation Law, in relation to the regulation of toxic chemicals in children's products and prohibiting the sale of children's products containing certain dangerous chemicals; and

WHEREAS, the Child Safe Products Act (S.501-B Kaminsky/A. 6296-A Englebright) requires children's product makers to disclose harmful chemicals and empowers the state to phase out chemicals as it deems necessary to protect children's health; and

WHEREAS, New York State will be following the lead of Washington, Maine, Vermont and Oregon; and

WHEREAS, New York's children deserve this protection and New York's parents deserve the right to make informed decisions affecting the welfare of their children; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County has an established record of examining this and similar issues relating to the health and safety of residents and the environment; and

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WHEREAS, recognizing that all residents, particularly children, as well as other inhabitants of our natural environment, have a right to protection from exposure to hazardous chemicals and pesticides, the Ulster County Legislature adopted Local Law Number 4 of 2009 implementing non-toxic pest management protocols on all county-owned and leased land; and

WHEREAS, as an operator of public buildings, the Ulster County Legislature acknowledges its responsibility to adopt and implement public policies and practices that seek to protect the long-term health of all those who work in and visit these properties and therefore adopted Resolution No. 282 of 2010 requiring the procurement and use of Green Cleaning Products to minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of providing safe and healthy county maintained facilities, the Ulster County Legislature adopted Resolution No. 283 of 2010 requiring the procurement and use of low or no Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) paints and sealers on all new, renovation and repair projects in County-owned and leased facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature has extensively researched the prevalence and danger of toxic chemicals in children's products, including testing of children's toys for chemicals resulting in the consideration of a Local Law banning children's products containing certain chemicals; and

WHEREAS, this law would be the most effective enacted on a statewide level; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges the Governor to sign posthaste The Child Safe Products Act (New York State Assembly Bill 6296A and Senate Bill 501B) to amend the Environmental Conservation Law, in relation to the regulation of toxic chemicals in children's products and the prohibition of the sale of children's products containing certain dangerous chemicals; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Assembly and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, and all Ulster County elected Assembly Members and Senators,

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and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21                      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislators Eckert and Fabiano)

Passed Committee: Public Health and Social Services as amended on December 5,  
2019

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 18<sup>th</sup> Day of December in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 20<sup>th</sup> Day of December in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen.

/s/ Victoria A. Fabella  
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature