November 20, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

We write on behalf of the children of New York and the nation, and those who care for them, urging your signature of the Child Safe Products Act to reveal hidden harmful unnecessary chemicals and eliminate the worst of them in items young people use every day.

Our children’s health is threatened by harmful chemicals in many of the products that surround them: when they get dressed, at play, when they eat, at bath time, and when they sleep. These toxic chemicals are in clothes, cups, car seats. They are in bath toys, bibs, and beds. These hundred plus harmful chemicals of concern are everywhere. We just don’t know it. Parents need to know, and the harmful chemicals need to go.

The Child Safe Products Act, passed by the Senate and Assembly with broad bipartisan support, requires product makers to tell us if harmful chemicals are in what they sell. It requires manufacturers to phase out the most toxic chemicals—like formaldehyde, arsenic, and asbestos—in children’s products. And it creates a framework for reporting and banning additional dangerous chemicals in children’s products in the future.

As the Trump Administration is weakening or delaying action on hazardous chemicals that can cause cancer, reproductive harm, and other serious illnesses, it is more important than ever for states like New York to lead the way, in this way, to protect public health. Recent reports document the progress leading retailers are making to protect people – especially children – from harmful chemicals. New York can accelerate this progress exponentially by implementing the Child Safe Products Act.

We are nurses and doctors, labor leaders and business leaders, teachers and technicians, scientists and activists, environmental advocates and more. Together we represent more than a million New Yorkers from every county and corner of the state. Given your track record, we know you share our passion to protect the health of our children and our communities. You have made clear your shared concern for the dangers of these unnecessary yet ubiquitous toxic chemicals.

With your signature of the Child Safe Products Act, New York State is poised to be a national leader in the effort to protect children from exposure to these toxic chemicals that can have lifelong health consequences.

As the holiday shopping season begins in earnest, we urge you make history and change history by signing this bill. Our children are depending on you.

Respectfully yours,
Katie Huffling
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Ben Anderson
Children’s Defense Fund – New York

Kathleen Curtis
Clean and Healthy New York

Eve Gartner
Earthjustice

Laura Weinberg
Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition

Beth Fite
Green Inside and Out, Inc.

Maida Galvez
Mount Sinai Children’s Environmental Health Center
American Academy of Pediatrics New York

Alexandra Zissu
Moms for a Non-Toxic New York

Joshua Klainberg
New York League of Conservation Voters

Elizabeth Moran
New York Public Interest Research Group

Bob Rossi
New York Sustainable Business Council

Caitlin P. Ferrante
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

Martin H Wolf
Seventh Generation, Inc.

Peggy Shepard
WE ACT for Environmental Justice