Title: An act to amend the regulation of chemicals in high concern to children.

Purpose: To provide caregivers with information regarding toxic and other dangerous chemicals in children’s products. The legislation requires the Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to establish a list of chemicals of high concern to children. The DOH, DEC, and Department of State (DOS) will publish this list on their websites and will require manufacturers to disclose if they use these chemicals in products intended for children (ages 12 and under).

Statement of Support: Currently, New York does not have a system in place in which the DOH, DEC, and DOS can publicly list chemicals of high concern, nor do they have the authority to scrutinize the use of these toxics in children’s products unless it is determined through a chemical-by-chemical basis. This legislation would provide this authority – if a chemical is on the list, and in a children's product, it must be disclosed to the state – while also putting pressure on manufacturers and distributors of children’s products to produce products that are safe for both children and the environment.

Because of the increased vulnerability of children to harmful chemicals, there is a pressing need for swift action from New York State in reducing the exposure to these toxics. This legislation is modeled after several other states, including Washington, California, and Maine, that have adopted broader chemical policies. The intention is to prevent the use of dangerous chemicals and to promote the use of safer chemical alternatives in children’s products. There would be minimal fiscal implications to the state as New York already helps in funding the Interstate Chemical Clearinghouse – where the chemical data collected in NY, and the other 9 states that participate, will be stored.

Phasing out harmful and unnecessary chemicals in children’s products will have a lasting effect on the health of New York’s children and the environment. Sierra Club is devoted to protecting public health and the environment by decreasing exposure to hazardous substances through reducing toxic chemicals in consumer products and in educating consumers about the potential risks of hazardous substances such as endocrine disruptors, formaldehyde, lead, mercury, and other persistent toxins. This legislation aligns with this goal and is why we strongly urge your support of S.6034-A/A.7950-A.

Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Urges Your Support Of S.6034-A/A.7950-A