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January 3, 2014

Dear Mr. Wasson, Mr. Gremer and Mr. Meyers,

We appreciate Walgreens' amazing leadership and visionary actions to make the workplace truly inclusive of people with physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities. For more than a decade, Walgreens has set the highest standards for training, hiring and mentoring people with disabilities. We thank you for continuing to innovate in terms of your systems, policies and processes to accommodate, respect and elevate these valuable employees and community members. We are so pleased that other companies are beginning to follow your example.

As national organizations representing people with learning, developmental and intellectual disabilities, we are writing to ask you to take another leap in leadership to help ensure the highest quality of life for your employees and your customers. We are deeply concerned with toxic chemicals in everyday products that are linked to serious disease and disability, and with the great vulnerability of children, starting in utero, to harm from even low levels of toxic chemical exposures.

These chemicals include neurotoxins such as lead and brominated flame retardants, carcinogens such as formaldehyde and styrene, and endocrine disruptors such as Bisphenol A and triclosan. Mounting scientific evidence shows that these chemicals are contributing to cancers, infertility, learning and developmental disorders including autism, and asthma. We are all exposed to these chemicals on a daily basis, in personal care products, toys, baby items and cleaning products.

In recent months, major retailers such as Walmart and Target have taken some modest first steps toward reducing and eliminating the presence of toxic chemicals in the products they sell. Their actions have come, in part, as a result of the "[Mind the Store](#)" campaign coordinated by the Safer Chemicals Healthy Families coalition. Our organizations are members of the SCHF coalition, along with 450 other health groups, health professional associations, environmental organizations, parent and consumer advocates, businesses and unions.

Our "Mind the Store" campaign asks major retailers to create an action plan on the "Hazardous 100+" list of chemicals in consumer goods. This Hazardous 100+ list is a roadmap for companies like Walgreens as to where regulations are in place or are heading. The list contains chemicals of high concern, linked by solid scientific evidence to chronic diseases and disorders, and identified as such by at least two authoritative government agencies.

As our country's largest drug store chain, Walgreens could make an enormous contribution to ensuring that the products on your shelves are as safe and non-toxic as possible. Walgreens clearly is not afraid to lead in new directions, and has a proven record of putting principles into practice.

We would welcome the opportunity to talk with you, by phone or in person, about ways in which Walgreens might work with us on the Mind the Store campaign. We welcome a response to this letter with dates and times that we might have a private, initial conversation with your sustainability team.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this issue. We look forward to working with you. Please contact Maureen Swanson at [mswanson@ldaamerica.org](mailto:mwanson@ldaamerica.org) or Lindsay Dahl at lindsaydahl@saferchemicals.org.

Sincerely,

Scott Badesch, President/CEO
Autism Society

Patricia Latham, President
Learning Disabilities Association of America

Sara Hart Weir, Vice President, Advocacy & Affiliate Relations
National Down Syndrome Society

Annie Acosta, Director of Fiscal and Family Support Policy
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