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March 6th, 2014

Rep. John Shimkus, Chair & Rep. Paul Tonko, Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy
2125 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shimkus and Ranking Member Tonko,

As one of over 100 U.S.-based pediatric, adolescent and young adult (PAYA) cancer advocacy nonprofits, we are writing today to state our formal opposition to the Chemicals in Commerce Act. Collectively, we represent the interests of over 100 million registered voters in all 50 states.

I hope that got your attention because here is what we have to say:

We fight every single day to improve services and support for PAYA patients, survivors and caregivers. We are not statistics on a page. We are millions of people with families, friends and loved ones whose lives are completely disrupted and torn apart.

On behalf of the PAYA oncology community, we are alarmed by the lack of regulations on toxic chemicals (many of which are linked to cancer) in the United States.

With all the hardships we face trying to foster social good and improved outcomes, we are in a sisyphusian battle against the disproportionately increased incidence of PAYA cancer (35%) since 1975.

Our outdated system for regulating and managing chemicals (which probably thinks Gerald Ford is still president) has not kept up with the science of the 21st century and certainly does not protect the PAYA cancer community from being exposed to carcinogenic chemicals in our everyday products.

We're stuck trying to navigate our way through a consumer economy that is laden with toxic chemicals. Decades worth of peer-reviewed research link chemicals we're exposed to (e.g. building materials, children's toys, couches, electronics and other products) to cancer.

The U.S. Health and Human Services Report on Carcinogens lists over 200 chemicals as known human carcinogens. We know the solution to this problem is to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). But the proposals

currently before Congress fall grossly short of protecting young people from cancer-causing chemicals.

Everyone agrees we need to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The question is how we go about doing it. Your discussion draft, the Chemicals in Commerce Act, makes clear that you're not interested in protecting public health from toxic chemical hazards.

We challenge you as human beings first and lawmakers second to realize that your approval rating is in the toilet and nearly all Americans have lost faith and could care less about Congress.

You have an opportunity to change that with true TSCA reform that actually helps people and not the chemical industry. We overwhelmingly oppose the Chemicals in Commerce Act and hope that the next proposal that you bring before your committee will take a drastically different approach, one that focuses on protecting public health from toxic chemicals.

CC: Representative Fred Upton, Chair and Representative Henry Waxman, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Committee, Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus

Sincerely,

Matthew Zachary
18-year Pediatric Brain Cancer Survivor
Founder/CEO
Stupid Cancer, Inc.

For a full list of our partnered organizations you can visit our website here:
<http://stupidcancer.org/directories/yaorgs.shtml>