

Go Ahead! Ask Your Representatives In Congress To Support Kid-Safe



Thank you for your interest in helping to pass the Kid-Safe Chemicals Act. One of the best ways to take action is to contact your Representative and Senators in Congress to urge them to support Kid-Safe.

You can call, write, email or meet them in person - all are important ways to communicate your message. Requesting an in-person meeting is the strongest message you can send. Mailing a letter is second best, followed by calling and then emailing.

So choose the tactic with which you're most comfortable, then kick it up a notch! Usually send emails? Try mailing a letter or calling. Called a few times? Go for that in-person meeting. It matters.

Finding your legislator

Use our easy search tool

To locate the names and contact information for your U.S. Senators and Representative, enter your zip code in our search tool and you'll have a list to work from. [www.ewg.org/kidsafe/Contact-Your-Legislator-Guide]

1. Meet in person at a local office

All U.S. Senators and Representatives have in-state offices where constituents can request appointments and meet with staff. Call the one nearest you (state and district offices are listed on the members' web sites) and tell the receptionist that you want to discuss the Kid-Safe Chemicals Act and urge the legislator to support it.

There is strength in numbers. If others are joining you, let your elected representatives know how many and who they are.

Refer to our Kid-Safe talking points here and hand deliver several of EWG's Kid-Safe information packets. Be sure to let your contacts know what's inside – that makes them more likely to refer back to it later!

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2. Send a letter via snail mail

EWG has a draft letter that you can sign and mail, and personalize, or you can write your own. If you write your own, feel free to use parts of ours. Some other tips:

- Ask your legislator to be an original co-sponsor of Kid-Safe.
- Refer to the bill by name. It's officially *The Kid-Safe Chemicals Act*.
- Explain why the issue matters to you.
- Insert EWG's supporting materials with your letter – they're on our Kid-Safe web page. [www.ewg.org/kidsafe]
- Address your elected representatives properly:
 - In the mailing address, write "The Honorable _____(members' full name)." For a Chairman/woman of a Committee, write "The Honorable _____(members' full name) and on the next line write: "Chairman/Chairwoman, Committee on (Committee Name)". For the Speaker of the House, write "The Honorable Nancy Pelosi" and on the next line write: "Speaker of the House". For the Senate Majority Leader, write "The Honorable Harry Reid" and on the next line write "Senate Majority Leader".
 - In the greeting, it's "Dear Senator" or "Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms." for Representatives. If your member is the Chair of a Committee then you should address your letter to: "Dear Mr. Chairman/Madam Chairwoman". If you are writing to the Speaker of the House write "Dear Madam Speaker" and for the Minority Leader, write "Dear Minority Leader Boehner". In the Senate if you are writing to the Majority Leader, write "Dear Majority Leader Reid" and for the Minority Leader, write "Dear Minority Leader McConnell".
- To ensure you get a response, write your full name and full address below .

3. E-mail your message

Email our sample message (you can personalize it) or write your own by visiting your representatives' web pages (in the House of Representatives and Senate) - most have forms to contact them.

4. Pick up that phone

Calling your legislators is an easy and powerful way to share your opinion. You need not explain your reasons for supporting Kid-Safe, though you can if you wish. You might say:

"Hi, My name is _____ and I live in _____(city). I am calling to urge the Senator/Representative to be an original co-sponsor of the Kid-Safe Chemicals Act. We need a strong national chemical policy to protect children from the many toxic chemicals we are exposed to every day. Thank you!"