

PSR[®]
**Physicians for Social Responsibility
Maine Chapter**

Maine Update

February 3, 2010
**Feb. 23: Urge Maine Lawmakers to Pass Important
Toxics Controls**
*Clean and Healthy Maine Lobby Day
Maine State Capitol*
Tuesday, February 23, 2010
9:00am - 1:00pm
[Click here to RSVP](#)


Every day, Mainers are exposed to thousands of chemicals that have never been vetted by the EPA for their long-term health effects. PSR Maine is working hard to ensure passage of state legislation that will help keep Mainers safe from the worst of these chemicals.

Please join PSR Maine and the Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine to voice your support for these bills at the Clean and Healthy Maine Lobby Day on February 23rd.

Schedule of Events:

9:00 am: orientation and briefing

10:30 am: conversations with your legislators

12:00 pm: gathering in the Hall of Flags

You don't need to be an expert -- only a concerned constituent. And if you can't attend the whole morning, consider coming between 10:30 and 12:00 when PSR Maine staff will facilitate conversations with legislators.

Our 2010 legislative priorities include:

Click to View:
 Climate Action Alert
 New Staff
 Biodiversity Protection
 Online Resources
 Continuing Ed Courses

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**Online
Resources &
Publications**

[Pediatric
Environmental
Health Toolkit](#)

The Toolkit is a combination of easy-to-use reference guides for health providers and user friendly health education materials on preventing exposures to toxic chemicals and other substances that affect infant and child health. The materials are visually appealing, practical and easy to use. The Toolkit is endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

[Learn more](#) about the Toolkit or [download it](#) to your Blackberry, iPhone, Palm or Windows Mobile device.

[Hazardous
Chemicals in
Health Care](#)

This PSR report details the first investigation ever of chemicals found in the bodies of health care professionals. Mainers Stephanie Lash, MD and Rep. Anne Perry, NP

Passing the Responsible Recycling Bill to help get hazardous materials out of community landfills. ([LD 1631](#))

Streamlining the pesticide notification system to benefit land managers, neighbors, community members and enforcement agencies. ([LD 1547](#))

Passing the DECA Loopholes bill to help keep fire retardants out of Maine's food supply. ([LD 1568](#))

Reforming Maine's Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) to help protect communities and Maine works from toxic chemicals on the job. ([LD1423](#))

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Sue Kring at 772-6714 or via [email](#).

Protect Our Climate from Sen. Murkowski - Again!



Last month we reported on Senator Murkowski's plan to block the EPA from controlling global warming pollution. Now the situation has worsened.

In a surprise move today, Senator Murkowski (photo left) has introduced a "joint resolution of disapproval" rejecting the EPA's

scientific finding that carbon dioxide and other global warming pollutants threaten human health and the environment.

Her joint resolution enables Congress to veto federal agency rules using special, expedited procedures. If passed, it would derail current and future EPA actions to control carbon pollution from all sources, including motor vehicles and large emitters such as coal-fired power plants.

Meanwhile, members in the House are racing to introduce bills that would exclude greenhouse gases from regulation as pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

These combined efforts would remove the teeth from the one federal agency that is mandated to protect our health from air pollutants.

The Maine delegation must hear from us. The oil and coal industries are lobbying heavily to maintain their ability to burn carbon-heavy fuels without regulation. We have to stand up against their efforts and protect the EPA. Please email and call your senators and representatives today and urge them to defend the Clean Air Act.

participated in the study.

Free Continuing Education Courses

How to Screen Patients for Domestic Violence Exposure

Earn CMEs by attending this one hour introduction to safe and effective domestic violence screening and referral. To book a training at your location or to learn more, contact [Janey Morse](#).

Pediatric Environmental Health Refresher Course

Taught by PSR Maine clinician members, this one hour course uses case studies to explore contemporary environmental health practice. To book a training or to learn more, contact [Sue Kring](#).

How to Use the Environmental Pediatric Health Toolkit: An Online Course

Physicians, Nurses, Nurse

[Please use this link to contact our senators and representatives.](#)

PSR Maine Welcomes New Toxics Director



The PSR Maine staff (L-R): Sue Kring, Janey Morse, Jim White, Roger Fenn, Paul Santomenna

Our work to protect Mainers from toxic chemicals has been enhanced by the recent addition of Sue Kring to our staff. As Toxics Program Director, Sue is working closely with the Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine to advocate for stricter chemical controls at the state and national levels. Sue also oversees the Maine Children's Environmental Health Project, a PSR Maine program to raise awareness of the potential harm endocrine disruptors pose to children and pregnant women.

Sue can be reached at 772-6714 or via [email](#).

Protecting Biodiversity for Medicine

Pew Environment Group Seeks Physicians' Support

The Global Conservation Campaign of the Pew Environment Group is working with doctors and patients to highlight the importance of protecting biodiversity for medicine. They are circulating a sign-on letter to President Obama asking him to support the Global Conservation Act.

The legislation would require the U.S. government to develop a comprehensive international conservation strategy and to work with other nations to help fund and support its implementation. The world's developing nations are on the front lines of the global conservation crisis. They face the highest rates of deforestation, species loss and depletion of the very resources that underpin their economic progress. But they lack the strategies, tools and funding to protect those resources. The Global Conservation Act would help ensure that developing nations conserve critical natural areas that support economic prosperity, protect ecosystems and species, and save human lives.

The sign-on letter focuses on the need to conserve plants used for medicines. As many as one-quarter of all prescription drugs have an active ingredient derived from a compound found in the natural. Most cancer drugs have an active ingredient that comes from nature.

If you are interested in learning more about the issue and/or signing on to the letter, please email [Susan Shell](#), the Maine representative of Pew Environment Group.

Practitioners and other health professionals can earn 1.5 credit hours by taking this on-demand online offering from PSR and the CDC. Includes an introduction to environmental health, case studies, a lesson on how to take environmental health histories and specific guidance on using PSR's Environmental Health Toolkit. To take the course or to learn more, please visit the [ATSDR website](#).

Quick Links

psrmaine.org

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PSR/Maine uses the values and expertise of medicine and public health to protect human life from the greatest threats to health and survival.

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