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National Medical Association Resolution in Support of National Chemical Policy Reform

-Adopted March 25, 2012

Whereas, the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 is the only major environmental law that has never been updated since its inception; and,

Whereas, the Toxic Substances Control Act does not require toxicological testing of chemicals before they are used in commerce, therefore many toxic chemicals are in use unnecessarily today; and,

Whereas, there are 82,000 chemicals registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as potentially used in consumer products in the U.S. Of these, EPA has only been able to require health and safety data on 200 of the 62,000 chemicals grandfathered in under this 35 year old law, and has been able to restrict the use of only five of these chemicals; and,

Whereas, African American communities are disproportionately impacted by health effects from chemical exposure during production, use, disposal and post-use legacy exposure to toxic chemicals; Now, therefore,

Be It Resolved, that the National Medical Association support comprehensive reform of national chemical policy to require toxicological testing of all chemicals and to require that they meet a health-based safety standard before being allowed into commerce, and allow identification of geographically based chemical “hotspots” for focused reduction of toxic chemical exposure.