



# Toxic-Free Future Federal Priorities

Americans face rising rates of cancer and chronic disease. Families are increasingly struggling with infertility. Children's rates of asthma and learning disabilities are on the rise, and cancer rates are increasing, particularly among young adults. Many of the chemicals in products we use every day have been linked to increasing rates of chronic disease, and scientists have been sounding the alarm for years.

States have led the way in protecting their citizens from cancer-causing chemicals lurking in products, drinking water, and food for more than two decades. States are on the front lines of cleaning up toxic pollution, and prevention is the best approach to solving the toxic chemical and chronic disease crisis.

The federal government's role to protect the health of Americans from harmful chemicals is critical, but rollbacks of basic health protections are already underway.

## Oppose rollbacks to federal bans on cancer-causing chemicals

***Toxic-Free Future (TFF) opposes efforts to roll back progress to implement a ban on a cancer-causing chemical, trichloroethylene (TCE).***

EPA's final regulation to ban TCE uses is on hold due to an executive order "freezing" final regulations with effective dates after January 20, 2025. In addition, there have been two Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions recently [introduced](#) that would throw out the rule entirely.

## Why this is bad for the health of Americans

- TCE is a cancer-causing solvent used in a wide range of products such as metal degreasers, spot removers, paints, and coatings. It has been linked to Parkinson's disease and non-cancer liver and kidney disease, among other health impacts.
- 17 million Americans are known to be [exposed](#) across nearly 400 drinking water systems in 41 states. TCE is also found at more than 50 percent of federal Superfund sites.
- EPA estimates the TCE rule will protect more than 85,000 workers and consumers across the country and save more than \$20 million in health benefits from reduced cancer incidence alone.



## Oppose efforts to roll back health protections in the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

In 2016, Congress updated TSCA – the federal law that regulates chemicals – after years of pressure by concerned mothers, workers, environmental health organizations, and health professionals. The new TSCA has succeeded in addressing some of the most hazardous chemicals including cancer-causing asbestos, which has caused sickness and death for many.

TFF opposes efforts to open up TSCA and roll back its health protections against cancer-causing chemicals. The chemical lobby is seeking major changes to the law that would make it easier to put dangerous chemicals like PFAS on the market. It would also be more difficult to ban chemicals, putting the health of children at greater risk. And any efforts to block states from protecting their citizens would undermine the health of all Americans.

### Why weakening TSCA is bad for Americans' health

- Toxic chemical exposure in our everyday lives is one reason for increased rates of chronic diseases. Removing protections from dangerous chemicals and increasing their use will increase rates of chronic disease like cancer.
- Giving more power to companies to make chemicals without transparency and oversight will set us back and leave moms, workers, and all of the public in the dark, unable to protect their own health.
- Cleaning up toxic pollution is extremely expensive. It is also extremely difficult to clean up drinking water once it is contaminated. The most prudent approach to save money and lives is to keep dangerous chemicals out of products. Without the basic protections in TSCA, more chemicals will pollute drinking water and our bodies.

## Protect Safer Choice– it's good for the health of Americans

The federal government's Safer Choice Certification is a key way for consumers to verify that a cleaning product is free of cancer-causing chemicals. This is a federal program that is working, and American businesses, the primary users of the program, are gaining more confidence from consumers that their products are safe. More than 250 businesses recently [sent a letter to EPA](#) expressing support for EPA's Safer Choice program.

### Why Safer Choice is good for the health of Americans

- Household cleaners can contain an array of harmful chemicals, including cancer-causing PFAS. The Safer Choice label keeps PFAS and other dangerous chemicals out of products.
- Consumers have a right to know what chemical ingredients are in their products and whether they are harmful. The Safer Choice program requires ingredient transparency. Not all products sold on store shelves are required to go through this rigorous evaluation.
- Congress recently directed the Department of Defense (DoD) to purchase cleaning products that have been certified as Safer Choice, which will protect the health of our military.

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