

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1011

July 1, 2026

The Honorable Lee M. Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

I am deeply concerned by reports that your agency is improperly undermining efforts to protect children from risks associated with common household chemicals. The Trump Administration claims to prioritize “Make America Healthy Again” (MAHA) policies. Yet you are reportedly wielding the President’s so-called “Restoring Gold Standard Science” executive order to pressure EPA scientists into downplaying the hazards associated with household chemicals.¹

Just a year ago, on the Trump Administration’s watch, the EPA determined that a common, artificial plastic additive, dibutyl phthalate (DBP), may “significantly contribute to unreasonable risk to human health” in 24 exposure scenarios.² Under a year later the EPA backtracked and reduced that list of risks from 24 to 6.³ Chemicals like DBP interfere with hormones in the human body, and chronic exposure can impact pregnancy, child growth and development, and reproductive health.⁴ I am concerned that political interference is influencing the risk assessments for chemicals used in everyday children’s toys, cosmetics, and household cleaners, exposing Georgia families and children to unnecessary risk.

The Trump Administration rallied behind the MAHA movement and promised to address childhood chronic disease, but concerned parents, caregivers, and MAHA supporters alike are increasingly frustrated by what appears to be your pro-industry, anti-health approach.⁵ Parents deserve to know the teething toy in their child’s mouth isn’t going to make them sick later in life. Caretakers deserve to know the disinfectant they use is killing deadly bacteria and viruses, not endangering the lives of patients. Any teenager that tries the newest makeup deserves to know they won’t suffer adverse effects as they grow up.

¹ René Marsh, *EPA scientists say they are being pushed to downplay potential risks of household products*, CNN, (June 8, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/06/08/politics/trump-epa-chemicals-political-pressure>

² EPA, *Draft Risk Evaluation for Dibutyl Phthalate (DBP)*, CASRN 84-74-2, (May 2025), <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-06/1.-dbp.-draft-risk-evaluation.-public-release.-hero.-may-2025.pdf>

³ EPA, *Risk Evaluation for Dibutyl Phthalate (DBP)*, CASRN 84-74-2, (December 2025), <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-12/01-dbp-risk-evaluation-public-release-hero-december-2025.pdf>

⁴ Wang Y, Qian H. *Phthalates and Their Impacts on Human Health*. Healthcare (Basel). 2021 May 18;9(5):603. doi: 10.3390/healthcare9050603. PMID: 34069956; PMCID: PMC8157593.

⁵ Cheyenne Haslett, *The MAHA moms who helped elect Trump are out of patience*, Politico, (June 7, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/06/07/the-maha-moms-who-helped-elect-trump-are-out-of-patience-00952367>

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Please respond to the following questions regarding the allegations of the Trump Administration pressuring EPA scientists to alter chemical safety reviews at the expense of children by no later than July 31, 2026:⁶

1. What new evidence has surfaced that negates the risk of using glue and adhesives, sealant, paint, and furniture cleaning sprays with DBP? These are the types of products that were initially assessed to put people at risk and yet remain in garages, closets, and cabinets across the country.
2. The EPA supposedly no longer intends to use the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) to conduct chemical analysis.⁷
 - a. How does each program office expect to conduct similar chemical safety testing to produce comparable results?
 - b. How will the EPA provide data assurance when those offices determine human health and environmental risk of chemicals?
3. The Trump Administration called for a reorganization of the EPA in 2025 and dismantled the Office of Children's Health Protection. Consideration for children now falls under the newly created Children's Health Protection Division within the equally new Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions.⁸
 - a. Given these organizational changes, how is the EPA ensuring children's health remains a top priority?

I write to you not only as a Georgia Senator but as a father of two children. I urge you to uphold the EPA mission: protect human health and the environment, for the people of Georgia and for every child in America.

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator

⁶ René Marsh, *EPA scientists say they are being pushed to downplay potential risks of household products*, CNN, (June 8, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/06/08/politics/trump-epa-chemicals-political-pressure>

⁷ Id.

⁸ EPA, *History of Children's Environmental Health Protection at EPA*, (February 12, 2026), <https://www.epa.gov/children/history-childrens-environmental-health-protection-epa>