

# CHANGE

Californians for a Healthy & Green Economy

## WHO IS CHANGE?

CHANGE (Californians for a Healthy and Green Economy) is a broad-based, growing coalition of approximately 35 environmental and environmental justice groups, health organizations, labor advocates, community-based groups, parent organizations, faith groups, and others who are concerned with the impacts of toxic chemicals on human health and the environment.

## WHY DO WE NEED CHANGE?

In 1950, one in four people in the U.S. could expect a cancer diagnosis at some point in her lifetime. Today, even with fewer people smoking cigarettes and more people eating healthier diets, nearly one in two men and more than one in three women can someday expect to hear, “You have cancer.” This statistic cannot be explained simply by saying that people are living longer. Childhood cancers are also on the rise as well as escalating incidences of childhood asthma, birth defects, autism, and learning disabilities.



Research has shown that many chemicals that are on the market today are contributing to the rises in disease incidence that we have seen over the last half century. Workers, low income and communities of color are disproportionately-impacted by the health effects of chemicals in the environment and in products. It is clear that our current chemicals management system is not sufficient to ensure the safety of families and children.

There are over 80,000 synthetic chemicals registered for use in the U.S. and each year approximately 1500-2000 new chemicals are added to the list. **Most of these chemicals have not been adequately tested to determine effects on human health.** Even chemicals that are widely recognized as highly hazardous have escaped restrictions because of a weak regulatory framework, strong pressure from chemical lobbyists, and weak regulatory enforcement.



## WHAT DOES CHANGE WANT?

CHANGE is actively campaigning for a common-sense chemicals policy both in California and nationwide. The public needs laws that take immediate action on the most dangerous chemicals, holds industry responsible for the safety of their chemicals and products, and that uses the best science to protect all people and vulnerable groups.

CHANGE also recognizes that changes in laws governing industrial chemicals is only a first step. A coordinated and integrated effort by government is needed to ensure that the public is adequately protected from *all* of the chemical exposures that pose a threat to human health including pesticides and other agricultural chemicals, food additives, cosmetic chemicals and pharmaceuticals.