

SAMPLE LETTER TO SENATOR/REPRESENTATIVE FOR MOMS AND DADS

(Your Senator/Representative's name)
(Office address - check www.house.gov or www.senate.gov)

Date

Dear Senator/Representative (last name)

I've recently become a supporter of the Safe Cleaning Products Initiative launched by Women's Voices for the Earth. As a mother and your constituent, I'm asking you to take action now to hold cleaning companies accountable for potentially dangerous ingredients in their products.

Toxic chemicals in common cleaners are linked to asthma and reproductive harm. According to *Household Hazards* – a report that exposes the link between chemicals in household cleaners and serious health problems – children, pregnant women, and women who are trying to get pregnant are particularly vulnerable to these chemicals. When a pregnant mother is exposed to these, this exposure can also impact the developing child and lead to birth defects, low birth weight or other harmful outcomes. Certain chemicals used in other common cleaning products have also been associated with reproductive harm such as decreases in fertility, changes in the onset of puberty, cancers of reproductive organs, miscarriage, premature birth and other effects.

Currently, companies are not obligated to ensure that their products are safe and healthy before they're sold on the market, nor are they obligated to list ingredients on their product labels. This means that I am unable to make informed choices for my family and myself. It is my responsibility to look out for my children's safety, but I can't do this alone.

I'm urging the government to require companies like SC Johnson, Clorox, and Proctor & Gamble to remove toxic chemicals from their products until they can be proven to be safe, and require them to fully disclose ingredients on the product label. It should be the manufacturer's responsibility to inform us of ingredients on the label, so that we are free to avoid them the same way that we are free not to buy certain foods for health or allergy reasons.

I am taking action on my end by making my own safe cleaning products with safe ingredients like baking soda and vinegar. I recently hosted a Green Cleaning Party through Women's Voices for the Earth, and all of my participants agreed that until we can be assured that companies are held accountable for health, safety, and environmental issues, we will not buy another manufactured cleaning product. But again, we can't do this alone. I encourage you to address this issue by sponsoring or supporting legislation to require companies to remove unsafe chemicals from their products, and to fully disclose ingredients on the product label.

I would appreciate a response from you so that I can be sure these concerns are receiving the attention they need. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
(Your name)
(Your address)