

## To the United States Senate

I know that my senators are Senator Clinton and Senator Schumer but I also wanted you to know that you'll be getting printed lists of your constituents who agree and sign these petitions. There are three petitions:

- 1) Proposed Amendment to uphold Section 5706 (Dedicated Vehicles) of the Sanitation Transportation Food Law
- 2) Proposal to eliminate Styrofoam as a food packing material
- 3) Proposal to eliminate styrene as a food additive

Here is a brief reason why you should take an interest in these three petitions to protect your constituents. I feel I can come to you because of the special session that was held to protect the rights of a single individual (Terry Schiavo). Terry was in a vegetative state for 15 years yet the Senate thought she was worth fighting for. Here would be a way of improving the **Quality Of Life and** for tens of millions of American citizens.

### **Are you up to the challenge?**

Petition one: As of today we are still using the 1967 laws to transport food products even though the sanitation transportation food laws were enacted in 1990. The Government agencies responsible for holding the sanitation transportation food laws have been bickering for the last 15 years (please see the letter from the US Department of Transportation and my web site). When Tommy Thompson resigned from Health and Human Services (H. H. S.) in December of 2004 he made the statement our food product was in jeopardy and he should know! H. H. S. was supposed to take charge of the sanitation transportation food Law in 2003 and have all the other government agencies work together in enforcing the his laws. This is all in the letter from the US Department of Transportation, which I obtain with the help of Senator Clinton office.

In 1994 when Congress rewrote these laws they noted that the American people were being put at risk because of transportation practices and they have rewritten these laws several times since 1994 yet their not being upheld. Congress needs to figure out what it needs to do to make these government agencies responsible to the American people!

Since 9/11/01 the Government agencies responsible for our food product have not gotten their act together and again I refer you to the letter from the US Department of Transportation, which states that, these laws for the past off to Health and Human Services to get them enforced. He would've thought that these laws would've been top priority when the Bush administration and the Congress were coming up with the homeland security office.

Terry Schiavo was in a vegetative state for 15 years which is the same amount of years that government agencies have been standing by doing nothing about the Sanitation Transportation Food Laws. Why isn't the rest of the American publics quality-of-life worth fighting for?

Petition two: There are two major reasons why polystyrene food containers should be taken off the market.

There has already been a precedence set by 90 Cities, 28 Counties and Two States, which have banned the use of polystyrene food containers dating back to 1989. Suffolk County New York and Sonoma California were two of the first counties and in their laws it also showed some of the health risk that their citizens would be subject to. The main reason for the ban of the polystyrene food containers was because they filled our landfills and leached the chemicals that would end up in our aquifer. These are the same chemicals that leached into our food on a daily basis and the hotter the food the more of these chemicals leach into our food.

The other reason is that government agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) show that the chemicals that leach out of the polystyrene food containers are two of the most harmful and tobacco smoke. These two chemicals are benzene and styrene.

Benzene is a "known" human carcinogen by all routes of exposure. Benzene can cause acute nonlymphocytic leukemia and other blood disorders. This according to the EPA. "The major effect of benzene from long-term (365 days or longer) exposure is on the blood. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that benzene is a known human carcinogen (A substance with the ability to cause cancer). Eating or drinking foods containing high levels of benzene can cause vomiting, irritation of the stomach, dizziness, sleepiness, convulsions, rapid heart rate, and death." According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The agency for toxic substance and disease Registry states that children living next to service stations have a higher risk of blood disorders from the benzene fumes in the air from the gasoline.

If benzene fumes near a service station to make a child's risk factor so much more than why is it overlooked in our food supply?

Styrene is more involved as there is much more that can go wrong with the human body because of styrene. If we look at the effects that the Government agencies mainly the EPA have documented on styrene and the effects of tobacco smoke on the human body. And the fact that the agency for toxic substance and disease Registry along with other government agencies have linked the two to styrene poisoning. More importantly the research that the Government agencies use show that the styrene affects the serotonin levels in the human body and compare the serotonin and how it controls or body to the effects of the styrene on the body.

Thanks to the University of Toledo's web site that breaks down the serotonin (otherwise known as 5-HT) and how it controls the body. 5-HT<sub>1A</sub>. Agonists reduce blood pressure, temperature, and anxiety. This receptor has also been widely implicated in depression.

5-HT<sub>1C</sub>. May regulate cerebrospinal fluid production and cerebral circulation. This subtype is speculated to be involved in the regulation of analgesia, sleep, and cardiovascular function.

5-HT<sub>1D</sub>. This subtype is the most abundant 5-HT<sub>1</sub> receptor in the CNS, but is also found in vascular smooth muscle mediating contraction. Agonists at this site are effective in treating acute migraine headaches. May serve as an autoreceptor inhibiting neurotransmitter release.

5-HT<sub>2</sub> receptors. Located primarily in the vascular smooth muscle, platelets, lung, CNS, and the GI tract, these appear to be involved in gastrointestinal and vascular smooth muscle contraction, hypertension, and migraine. Antagonists have potential use as antipsychotic agents.

5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptors. These receptors appear to be involved in reducing pain, nausea, and emesis. Potential use of agents acting at this site include migraine, anxiety, and cognitive and psychotic disorders.

5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptors. Activation of these receptors increases intracellular processes that promote neurotransmitter release.

Now let's matched the serotonin to the effects of the styrene according to several government agencies styrene affects the following:

- Acute (short-term) exposure to styrene in humans results in mucous membrane and eye irritation, and gastrointestinal effects (5-HT<sub>2</sub>).
- Chronic (long-term) exposure to styrene in humans results in effects on the central nervous system (CNS (5-HT<sub>2</sub>)), such as headache (5-HT<sub>1D</sub>, 5-HT<sub>3</sub>), fatigue, weakness, and depression (5-HT<sub>1A</sub>); peripheral neuropathy; and minor effects on some kidney (5-HT<sub>2</sub>) enzyme functions and on the blood (5-HT<sub>1C</sub>). These studies focus primarily on inhalation and not oral contamination. (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA))

To explain the fatigue and weakness this is what International Programme on Chemical Safety Poisons Information (Monograph 509 Chemical styrene) states:

#### [9.4 Systematic description of clinical effects](#)

##### 9.4.1 Cardiovascular

Acute: Cardiac arrhythmias. Styrene being an aromatic hydrocarbon may increase the risk of sensitivity of the heart to exogenic catecholamines.

##### 9.4.2 Respiratory

Acute and chronic: Upper respiratory irritation. Burning sensation in the chest, wheezing, dyspnea. Forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV<sub>1</sub>) was changed in a group of workers. Chemical pneumonitis may follow ingestion.

### 9.4.3 Neurological

#### 9.4.3.1 Central Nervous System (CNS)

Headache, general weakness. Increased tiredness, lightheadedness, dizziness, loss of coordination and balance, vertigo and ataxia. Extreme exposures may cause unconsciousness. Minor EEG abnormalities in chronic exposure. Slight effects on psychomotor performance. Persistent and premature dementia was suspected to be caused in some workers, after long-term exposures.

#### 9.4.3.2 Peripheral nervous system

Peripheral neuropathy was seen only in chronic exposure (Behari et al, 1986) characterized by hypoesthesias and decreased peroneal nerve conduction velocity.

#### 9.4.3.4 Skeletal and smooth muscle

Skeletal muscles may exhibit weakness and tremors.

#### 9.4.4 Gastrointestinal

Loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting.

#### 9.4.5 Hepatic

Chronic: possible alterations in liver enzymes and liver function tests.

#### 9.4.7 Endocrine and reproductive systems

Congenital defects and increase in spontaneous abortions have been described but the relationship to styrene was not proven.

#### 9.4.8 Dermatological

Mild to moderate irritation. Repeated or prolonged contact may cause dermatitis (itching, drying, redness).

#### 9.4.9 Eye, ears, nose, throat: local effects

Eye irritation and conjunctivitis.

Irritation of nose and throat mean that increased incidence of laryngeal carcinoma was suspected but not proven.

#### 9.4.12.3 Others

Alterations in glucose metabolism have been noted (Guillemin and Bauer, 1979).

#### 9.4.15 Special risks

Expectant mothers and women with ovular or menstrual disorders should not work in conditions exposing them to styrene.

### 6.2 Distribution by route of exposure

Absorbed styrene is rapidly and extensively distributed throughout the body tissues (Fielder and Lowing, 1981). Experimentally, styrene tissue distribution after oral acute doses presented highest concentrations in fat, brain, kidney, liver, and pancreas. On repeated exposure styrene gradually accumulated in the adipose tissue but not in other tissues (IARC, 1979).

If we look at depression; a round the year 2000 to drug Paxol advertised slogans stated we don't know how you get depression but here's a drug to fix. They also stated that over 20 million Americans suffer from depression. Now in 2005 they don't say that they don't know where depression comes from but they still insists that their drug will fix it. Also now they stayed only 15 million Americans suffer from depression. If by taking styrene away from our food can help 10% of those who suffer from depression that would mean between 1.5 million and 2 million people would not have to suffer. I know this is not the only way that the human body acquires depression but as you can see styrene does cause depression.

There are television commercials that state 28 million American people suffer from migraine headaches. As you can see styrene also triggers migraines; it is not the only way to trigger a migraine but it is one of the ways in. If by a letter they and the consumption of styrene will help 10% of the people suffering from migraines we're talking 2.8 million American people.

These are very significant numbers. Now let's talk about the effects styrene has on pregnant and women.

If you go to Phillip Morris.com it states "Women who smoke have increased risks for delay in conceiving, infertility, pregnancy complications, premature birth, spontaneous abortion and stillbirth. Infants born to women who smoke during pregnancy have a lower average birth weight than infants born to women who do not smoke. The risks for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) are increased among the infants of women who smoke during pregnancy. Women who quit smoking before or during pregnancy reduce the risk of such adverse reproductive outcomes. For pregnant women, smoking is also likely to put their babies at risk for poor lung development, asthma and respiratory infections."

The (Styrene) Fact Sheet: Support Document (CAS No. 100-42-5) From December 1994, Form EPA 749-F-95-019a States: Humans Birth weights of the offspring among female workers exposed to styrene in the plastics industry was compared. A 4% lower birth weight was detected in babies from women who worked at the most highly- exposed jobs(estimated at 82 ppm), although the difference was not statistically significant (ATSDR 1992, U.S. EPA 1994). Some studies have suggested an increased risk of spontaneous abortion among female workers, but other studies have been negative (ATSDR 1992). These are women that have been inhaling styrene. In 2000 to the EPA has finally started to document the effects of styrene through oral consumption these findings are not out yet.

To complicate the matter even further The Surgeon General's Report on The Health Consequences of Smoking states Nicotine is found in breast milk. Styrene and benzene

are also found in breast milk. The health risk to children from styrene and benzene is considerably higher than that from the nicotine.

So with this information should the Surgeon General Place health consequences on polystyrene food containers and /or products like on tobacco products?

Because the highest concentrations of styrene affect the fat, brain, kidney, liver, and pancreas and alterations in glucose metabolism have been noted; is styrene the cause for the rise in Type I diabetes, Type II diabetes and juvenile diabetes over the last three decades?

If the effect of styrene so closely imitates that of tobacco products should we be feeding our children from these polystyrene food containers?

Petition Three: Using styrene as a food additive after seeing what styrene does from petitioned two is just another way of setting off time bombs in the human body. The OPPT Chemical Fact Sheets Styrene Fact Sheet (CAS No. 100-42-5) from the EPA dated November 1994 says; Food processing companies use small amounts of styrene as a flavoring agent in foods such as ice cream and candy. As you can see the food setter flavor by styrene are targeting our children. The food processing companies are hiding behind the FDA law for food additive regulation number 21 CFR 172.515.

TITLE 21--FOOD AND DRUGS  
CHAPTER I--FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
SUBCHAPTER B - FOOD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION (CONTINUED)

PART 172 -- FOOD ADDITIVES PERMITTED FOR DIRECT ADDITION TO FOOD FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Subpart F -- Flavoring Agents and Related Substances  
Sec. 172.515 Synthetic flavoring substances and adjuvants.

Synthetic flavoring substances and adjuvants may be safely used in food in accordance with the following conditions.

- (a) They are used in the minimum quantity required to produce their intended effect, and otherwise in accordance with all the principles of good manufacturing practice.
- (b) They consist of one or more of the following, used alone or in combination with flavoring substances and adjuvants generally recognized as safe in food, prior-sanctioned for such use, or regulated by an appropriate section in this part.

There are 30 pages of synthetic additives that the FDA had deemed safe styrene is on page 28 there are other Simmons for styrene on other pages. The fact that the FDA deemed these safe especially styrene back in the early nineties or before and the fact that the EPA has only started doing studies on the oral consumption of styrene in 2002 show

that this law and laws like this should be reviewed. Until they're reviewed the use of the synthetic additives should stop because all the FDA is doing is using the American public as a guinea pig.

After all the FDA's track record or last few years has not been that good. The fact that antidepressants had to be pulled off the market for children because of the suicide rate of the children which styrene may have a direct effect on.

Again I feel that I can come to you the U.S. Senate because of the Terry Schiavo case. Terry was in a vegetative state for 15 years yet the Senate thought she was worth fighting for. Here would be a way of improving the **Quality Of Life and** for tens of millions of American citizens.

**Are you up to the challenge?**

**I am not a doctor nor am I a scientist** I am a person that has been deeply affected by the blatant disrespect our government agencies show the people of the United States.

**I am a collector of the facts** of these government agencies that don't know how to work together to protect the people of this great country.

I am also a person living in this nightmare as I suffer from styrene poisoning and was poisoned at a food warehouse from unloading polystyrene food containers over several years. So I know the effects that this has not only on a person but a family! There are many families suffering because one of their Love one's **Quality Of Life** is being affected.

Thank you for your time.  
Respectfully yours

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