

# Strengthen EPA and Its Mission to Protect Public Health

**It is time to put science and public health front and center at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** to ensure that the most significant and pervasive threats to health from harmful chemical exposures are properly addressed. There have long been serious problems with using the best science to inform chemical policy in the United States. Changes to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in 2016 attempted to address these problems; however, the current administration's implementation of TSCA illustrates how the changes [fall short](#).

To that end, the Program on Reproductive Health (PRHE) at the University of California, San Francisco — a world-renowned health sciences institution — has been at the forefront of defending science and promoting health-protective policies around harmful chemicals. Their comments have continued to shine a light on EPA practices that fail to protect health or

consider vulnerable populations. Their recommendations have been cited and validated by EPA's own scientific peer-review panel regarding best practices for assessing hazard and risk.

Now, to help EPA put science and public health front and center, PRHE has organized top scientists and chemical policy experts from around the country to develop evidence-based recommendations to improve hazard and risk assessment, and prevent harms from chemicals and pollutants.

*We can boldly imagine and incorporate the best science to support policies that enhance health for all people — in our communities, in land and natural resource management, the products in our homes and schools, and actions in our workplaces.*

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

### Health-Protective Chemical Policy Reform

Use the best available science to assess hazards and risks of chemicals to ensure better public health decisions, including a more representative definition of susceptible populations and using approaches to quantify risks for all health effects, both cancer and noncancer, at all anticipated levels of exposures.

### Science-Based Systematic Review as the Foundation for Health-Protective Policy

Adopt a science-based, validated systematic review method to ensure transparent and unbiased evaluation of chemical harms.

### Environmental Justice in Chemical Policy

Ensure that the routine outcome of our environmental laws and policies at all levels of government is equal protection, not environmental disparities.

### Financial Conflict of Interest in Funding and Assessment of Science

Act to make science free of financial conflicts of interest from industry influence, so environmental health decision-making can protect public health and EPA can rebuild public trust.

### Investing in Research and Data to Support More Equitable Public Health Decisions

Invest in the most up-to-date research and data infrastructure to allow EPA to better identify and prioritize potential harms, evaluate risks, and analyze the effectiveness of interventions.

**THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING:**

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