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For more information contact Lindsay Dahl at
612.870.3458 (w) or 507.301.9679 (c)

***Minnesota House and Senate Pass bill to Protect Children's Health
Bill expected to arrive on the Governor's desk Friday***

St. Paul, MN- Late last night the Minnesota House and Senate passed a bill that would protect children from toxic chemical exposures. The Public Health Omnibus Bill (SF 651) is a first step in regulating toxic chemicals in the state of Minnesota. With emerging science and consumer dissatisfaction on the rise, many states are taking the lead to regulate chemicals, where the federal government has fallen behind.

The bill has two important measures that will protect Minnesota's children. First is the phase out of the toxic flame retardant deca-BDE. This narrow bill will phase out the flame retardant from electronics and televisions by the year 2011, and will prevent future use of the chemical in home textiles and mattresses.

In peer reviewed literature, deca has been linked to liver and thyroid problems, hormone disruption and disrupting neurological development. Primary home exposure to deca is via household dust.

The other provision, the Safe Baby Products bill, would phase out phthalates from products geared towards children under the age of three. Phthalates are commonly used to soften PVC plastic and are commonly found in rubber duckies and teething rings.

"Minnesotans have been asking for peace of mind; this is a great step to protect our fire fighters and make the lives of Minnesota parents a little easier," states chief author Representative Karen Clark (DFL-Minneapolis). "Next year we hope to come back and address bisphenol-A, the hormone- disrupting chemical commonly found in baby bottles."

The bill passed the House with bipartisan support and final count of 93-39 and the Senate 45-20.

The bill is expected to head to the Governor's desk late this week.

Kathleen Schuler, co-director of Healthy Legacy states, "We ask Governor Pawlenty to give Minnesota Moms a great Mother's day gift by signing this bill into law."

Healthy Legacy is a coalition of 29 organizations dedicated to safe products, made safely. For a list of full coalition members visit our website at www.healthylegacy.org