

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, &
Pensions
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, &
Pensions
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, Chairman Pallone, and Ranking Member Walden:

Our organizations strongly support efforts by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ensure the public is protected from hazardous or poorly-tested substances in products the agency regulates, including its recent steps to address the safety and effectiveness of sunscreen ingredients. We ask that you join us in supporting these recent actions by FDA.

As FDA noted in the agency's proposed sunscreen rule, sunscreen use has increased dramatically but many ingredients lack safety testing and have not been reevaluated based on the latest science. Some of the chemicals used in sunscreens are thought to be absorbed through the skin and the agency has expressed concern for potential endocrine disruption as well as the potential for reproductive, developmental and carcinogenic effects.

We strongly support FDA's request that chemical manufacturers conduct studies to assess the extent to which substances such as sunscreen chemicals are absorbed into the body, and the likelihood that these chemicals may cause serious health problems. Like FDA, we are especially concerned about the impacts of sunscreen chemicals and other substances on the developing bodies of children.

We strongly support FDA's efforts to assess the safety and effectiveness of sunscreens. Melanoma rates continue to climb and every year, thousands of Americans die from skin cancer. Safer and more effective sunscreens should help. But, as FDA documented in the proposed rule, many sunscreens do not provide adequate protection from the sun and make misleading and confusing claims.

We strongly support FDA's efforts to ensure the safety and effectiveness of sunscreen ingredients, and we urge you to support FDA's proposed sunscreen rule.