

# Boscola Advocates to Ban Hospital IV Bags and Tubes Made with Harmful Toxin

By Senator Lisa Boscola

The chemical is DEHP, used to make plastic more flexible.

It is so harmful that it was banned from children's toys in 2008, but it is still widely used in the equipment that delivers fluids directly into the veins of hospital patients, including babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, or NICU.

This session, I have reintroduced legislation requiring licensed medical facilities in Pennsylvania that utilize IV bags and certain other medical devices with Diethylhexyl Phthalate (DEHP) to formally notify patients of their use and the documented risks posed by this toxic additive. Senate Bill 804 will also begin to phase out DEHP IV-bags and medical devices over time, starting with high-risk patients (NICUs, pediatrics, and cancer patients).

Did you know...? DEHP belongs to a family of chemicals added to certain plastic products to increase their flexibility and reduce brittleness. The additives leach to varying degrees and research suggests exposure can interfere with testosterone production and disrupt normal male reproductive development. Studies have also found that DEHP may contribute to increased drug resistance in the treatment of breast cancer patients, interfering with breast cancer treatment and increasing the likelihood of relapse.

In 2006, the American Medical Association adopted its policy urging healthcare providers to avoid using DEHP in medical devices. In 2008, Congress prohibited the manufacture, sale, or distribution of children's toys and childcare articles that contain DEHP.

The additives are unnecessary in IV bags and safe alternatives are available from multiple suppliers that do not contain DEHP.

WHY IS DEHP STILL ALLOWED IN IV BAGS?

Most IV bags in the U.S. are made with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and require a plasticizer like Di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) to make the rigid plastic more flexible. Unfortunately, as we know, DEHP is a known toxic chemical that can leach into IV fluids, potentially putting patients at risk—particularly the most vulnerable patients.

LEGISLATIVE  
**Spotlight**

"My legislation is critical for patient safety – exposure to DEHP can have serious health repercussions especially for high-risk patients."

**LISA M. BOSCOLA**  
State Senator - 18<sup>th</sup> District



State lawmaker pushes to ban hospital IV bags and tubes made with harmful chemical

**STATE LAWMAKER SEEKS BAN ON TOXIC IV BAGS AND TUBES**

Watch on 

own, but they can ask a legislator to sponsor a bill on their behalf. If you have an idea for a bill, the first step is to find a legislator who may support your idea.

Contact the legislator and share your idea for a bill You can contact a legislator by phone, email, or snail-mail. Different legislators have different preferences when connecting with voters, so there is no right or wrong way to reach out. If your idea is very complex, however, it might be better to ask for a meeting to talk through your thoughts.

Support your bill through the process If a legislator introduces your bill, you should follow its progress through the Legislature. (If your idea is related to a bill that is already going through the legislative process, your legislator might be able to introduce your idea as an amendment to that bill.)

We also know that DEHP has been linked to reproductive risks in pediatric patients, affects pregnant women by exposing the fetus to potentially serious DEHP side effects, and does not mix well with chemotherapy as patients undergoing chemo could receive less than the prescribed doses of medications due to leaching.

How Do I Request a New Law or Bill?  
Have you ever thought to yourself, "That should be a law!"  
(Or, maybe, "That shouldn't be a law!")  
If so, you have an idea for a bill, a proposed change to state law.  
Here are the steps to bring a bill to life.  
Call your legislatorIdentify a legislator to work with

Citizens cannot introduce bills all on their own, but they can ask a legislator to sponsor a bill on their behalf. If you have an idea for a bill, the first step is to find a legislator who may support your idea.

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**CONTACT**  
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585-472-2075

**EVENT TIMES**  
Check-In: 9:45 AM  
Event Begins: 10:00 AM  
Event Ends: 12:00 PM

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