



# U.S. PIRG

Federation of  
State PIRGs

AkPIRG • Arizona PIRG • CALPIRG • CoPIRG • ConnPIRG • Florida PIRG  
 Georgia PIRG • Illinois PIRG • INPIRG • Iowa PIRG • Maryland PIRG  
 MASSPIRG • PIRGIM • MoPIRG • MontPIRG • NCPIRG • NHPIRG  
 NJPIRG • NMPIRG • NYPIRG • Ohio PIRG • OSPIRG • PennPIRG  
 RIPIRG • TexPIRG • VPIRG • WashPIRG • WISPIRG



## 2006-2007 Member Report

United States Public Interest Research Group & U.S. PIRG Education Fund



# From The Director

**Andre Delattre, Executive Director**

*Dear U.S. PIRG supporter;*

*Over the last 22 years, I've worn many hats for U.S. PIRG: knocking on doors for CALPIRG, volunteering with the CALPIRG chapter at the University of California at Berkeley, joining the professional staff as an organizer and later as director of our student programs, and, most recently, accepting the position of executive director of U.S. PIRG.*

*Much has changed since I got my start with the PIRGs. We've grown the size of our staff and membership, the scope of our program, and most importantly, the impact we're having on the political process and people's lives. In 1984, Congress had fewer than 1,000 lobbyists. And campaign spending in all races nationwide came to less than \$600 million. By 2004, these numbers had risen to more than 30,000 registered lobbyists and \$4 billion spent.*

*With the vast amounts of money flooding Washington—and, I might add, most of our state capitals as well—the public needs a watchdog to check the influence of powerful interests and an advocate to speak out for the public interest.*

*The Goliaths of the American political system—the financially powerful, the politically well-connected—will always try to game the system. It's up to the Davids to stand up to them and, when we can sling the right shot, win a victory or two for the American public.*

*I'm happy to report to you on our recent action, progress and results in this report. And I'm grateful to have you on our side as we take on whatever battles may await us in the years to come.*



*ON THE COVER: Senior Fellow Ed Mierzwinski worked in Washington, D.C., to stand up for consumers; as lead-tainted toys and other dangerous products were recalled by the millions, we made sure that Congress took action to fix the frayed product safety net; we fought to make chemical plants and refineries safer for communities; Johanna Neumann helped make Maryland smoke-free.*



# Fight Political Corruption

## Congress Takes First Steps Toward Lobby Reform

U.S. PIRG spearheaded changes to curb the influence of powerful lobbyists over Congress

In 2006, scandals sent two members of Congress and two lobbyists to jail, forced three more members to resign from office, and placed nine more members under federal investigation. Voters made it clear that year that they were ready for a real change in the way their elected officials do business in Washington, D.C.

In 2007, Congress passed the most sweeping changes to the rules governing lobbying in a generation. The president signed the bill, which we supported, in September. The new law bans gifts and travel paid for by lobbyists and requires lobbyists to disclose the contributions they raise on behalf of candidates.

Congressional leaders relied on Gary Kalman, our chief advocate on the issue, for his help in shaping the bill. For example, his research on best practices of state ethics commissions was used in committee hearings. We worked closely with members of Congress, including Rep. Chris Van Hollen (Md.), who ushered the bill through 40 drafts before the final bill came to a vote.

Through letters, e-mail messages and phone calls, U.S. PIRG members made their voices heard on Capitol Hill. Our advocates detailed the excesses of lobbyists for reporters and editorial writers, published guest opinion pieces in newspapers and online journals, and publicized our research, which highlighted the dominant role of money in politics.

Our calls for greater disclosure of the activities of lawmakers and lobbyists, reasonable



*A wave of scandals involving Jack Abramoff and members of Congress prompted voters to call for reform in Washington, D.C.*

restrictions on free gifts, meals and travel, and an overhaul of the ethics oversight process paved the way for the significant reforms in Congress.

### An End To Ineffective Self-Policing

Though the new rules will ban some of the most egregious instances of influence-peddling, Congress needs an independent office to investigate charges of unethical behavior. Twenty-three states have established such an office to end the kind of ineffective self-policing that failed to catch lawmakers who accepted gifts and travel from disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff. We'll continue to work with Congress to finish the job of reform.

## Leadership

### U.S. PIRG Board of Directors

- Erin Bowser, Ohio PIRG
- Diane Brown, Arizona PIRG
- Sarah Clader, NJPIRG Student Board
- Janet Domenitz, MASSPIRG
- Lindsey Gavioli, CoPIRG Student Board
- Dan Jacobson, Environment California
- David Masur, PennEnvironment
- Trea McPherson, ConnPIRG Student Board
- Chris Phelps, ConnPIRG
- Michael Reagan, CALPIRG Student Board
- Tiffany Yee, MASSPIRG Student Board

## Research

Honest Enforcement: What Congress Can Learn From The States



**Honest Enforcement:** What Congress Can Learn From Independent State Ethics Commissions

*In this September 2007 report, we made the case for an independent office to investigate ethics problems. As of January 2007, at least 23 states had established independent offices to oversee enforcement of ethics rules for their state legislators—a system far more effective than Congress' self-policing.*

# Fixing The Frayed Product Safety Net

## Demanding Accountability From Mattel And Others

After several high-profile recalls of toys, we called on Congress and corporate America to better protect consumers

In 2007, the recalls of millions of lead-tainted or otherwise hazardous toys made headlines for months.

The media frenzy brought new attention to our longstanding calls for more funding, tougher enforcement and more accountability at the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Eventually, Congress went on to pass an important U.S. PIRG-backed bill that will permanently increase the funding and authority of the CPSC.

### Toy Safety Research

Unfortunately, we weren't surprised by the recalls. Our yearly holiday season survey typically finds dozens of unsafe toys, and the past two years were certainly no exception.

Our 2006 research found that many toys that were labeled as "phthalate-free" in fact contained the developmental toxin. Thanks in part to our work, California went on to pass a precedent-setting bill at the state level.

On Oct. 14, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law the Toxic Toys Bill, which prohibits the manufacture, sale and distribution of children's toys and feeding products that contain phthalates (read more on page 11).

In 2007, our researchers found one

toy that contained 65 percent lead by weight—more than 1,000 times the legally acceptable limit. The CPSC went on to ban children's metal jewelry containing more than 0.06 percent lead by weight.

We released our toy safety report, "Trouble in Toyland," in Washington, D.C., and in 75 other cities across the country. Within a span of two months, our senior fellow in Washington, D.C., Ed Mierzewski, was quoted or featured in stories in the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Time magazine, the Los Angeles Times and the Chicago Tribune.



*We released our annual toy safety report in Washington, D.C., with Rep. Chris Van Hollen (Md.).*

Thousands of people downloaded the report and our toy safety tip sheet. Over the past 22 years, the report has resulted in more than 100 recalls or other enforcement actions.

In December, Congress acted on some of our concerns by providing the CPSC with an \$80 million budget for FY08—\$16.75 million more than the Bush administration's request.

That same month, Congress introduced bills that would increase the fines that manufacturers pay when unsafe products reach consumers.

More than 100 representatives signed on as co-sponsors of the House bill, which we lauded as a strong first step. The Senate went on to approve their version of the bill in 2008.

The law will give the CPSC the funding and authority it needs to hold toy manufacturers accountable.

We fought to include amendments to the bill that would require some children's products to be tested by independent labs and to be certified to meet safety standards, limit the levels of lead in toys and children's jewelry, improve the CPSC's ability to disclose safety information to the public, and raise the cap on the agency's penalties from \$1.83 million to \$100 million.

It also included provisions giving state attorneys general the ability to enforce CPSC regulations.

## Corporate Safety Challenge

We also used the recalls as a chance to call on corporate America to do better. Unsafe toys made it to store shelves because toy manufacturers failed to ensure their own products' safety. In part, that's because our government routinely lets manufacturers off the hook.

Our government spends less on product safety than ever before, even as globalization has fundamentally changed the way that products get to store shelves.

Companies take advantage of the lax

sands of our activists responded, asking the company to recall the dangerous toy everywhere it was sold.

They also asked the company to make up for the mistake by signing on to our corporate safety challenge—a promise to test all toys rigorously and ban dangerous chemicals from products.

So far, Fisher-Price and Mattel haven't signed on. Their stubborn resistance to change and the lack of substantive reforms from other companies provided more ammunition for our efforts in Con-



*Chairman and CEO of Mattel, Inc., Robert Eckert and acting head of the CPSC Nancy Nord were called to testify before Congress after massive toy recalls.*

oversight and fail to ensure the safety of the products they sell.

In the wake of high-profile recalls, companies like Mattel apologized for the problems, but actually failed to take the necessary steps to prevent them from happening again.

We rallied our e-mail activists to call out Fisher-Price, which is owned by Mattel, for recalling a toy with over-the-limit amounts of lead—but only in Illinois, where the toy made headlines. Thou-

gress to strengthen the role and resources of the watchdog agencies.

## Our Next Steps

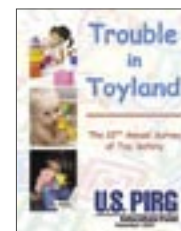
In 2008, in addition to publishing our annual toy safety report, we'll focus on strengthening consumer protections and asking corporations to take immediate action to fix safety problems. We'll also work to convince Congress to ban dangerous chemicals, such as phthalates and PBDEs, nationwide.

## Leadership

### U.S. PIRG Education Fund Board of Directors

Steve Blackledge, CALPIRG  
Erin Bowser, Ohio PIRG  
Paul Burns, VPIRG  
Janet Domenitz, MASSPIRG\*  
Lindsey Gavioli, CoPIRG Student Board  
Beth McConnell  
Dena Mattola, NJPIRG  
Trea McPherson, ConnPIRG Student Board  
Elizabeth Ouzts, Environment North Carolina  
Michael Reagan, CALPIRG Student Board  
Rick Trilsch – Secretary\*  
Rex Wilmouth, CoPIRG  
Tiffany Yee, MASSPIRG Student Board  
\* Non-voting position

## Research



### Trouble In Toyland:

The 22nd Annual Survey of Toy Safety

*Most of the toys recalled in 2007 contained hazards previously identified in our annual toy safety report—such as over-the-limit amounts of lead, dangerous small magnets and choking risks.*

# Health Care And Rx Drugs

## New Law Holds Drugmakers Accountable For Safety

U.S. PIRG stood up to Merck and other powerful drugmakers, which opposed public disclosure of clinical trial results

Despite fierce resistance from the pharmaceutical industry, Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation in 2007 that should make the drugs we put in our medicine cabinets a little safer in the future. The bill was signed into law in October 2007.

U.S. PIRG urged Congress to stand behind provisions that would require greater transparency in clinical trials of new drugs, fewer conflicts of interest on FDA drug safety panels, and greater accountability for drug companies that fail to perform required safety studies, including fines of up to \$10 million.

### The Fight For Safer Drugs

The bill's near-unanimous final approval belied the intense debate that surrounded its key provisions. We made it a priority to require drug companies to disclose clinical trial results—a step vehemently opposed by the drug industry's lobbyists.

U.S. PIRG spearheaded the Patients and Consumers Coalition, which included groups ranging from the Union of Concerned Scientists to the Breast Cancer Fund.

We made the case for mandatory posting of clinical trials in our meetings with key congressional leaders, including Rep. John Dingell (Mich.), Rep. Frank

Pallone (N.J.), Rep. Henry Waxman (Calif.), Rep. Ed Markey (Mass.), Sen. Ted Kennedy (Mass.), Sen. Jack Reed (R.I.), Sen. Dick Durbin (Ill.) and Sen. Barbara Mikulski (Md.), all of whom ultimately championed the provision.

According to Steve Blackledge, our lead advocate on the issue, controversies surrounding the harmful side effects of such drugs as Vioxx, Paxil and Avandia left members of Congress more open to our push for reform.

“In the end, there were too many headlines about dangerous drugs. Congress



*Senior Policy Analyst Steve Blackledge testified about deceptive marketing practices on the part of the pharmaceutical industry.*

had to act, and we're pleased they did," said Blackledge.

### Deceptive Marketing

We used our research to make the case for drug safety reform. According to a May 2006 report released by U.S. PIRG, prescription drug marketers made deceptive claims to doctors and consumers about 150 different drugs, including Vioxx and OxyContin.

The report, “Turning Medicine Into Snake Oil: How Drug Marketers Put Patients At Risk,” analyzed five years of regulatory letters from the FDA to prescription drug companies. The report called false and misleading advertising on the part of prescription drug companies “common and dangerous.”

In six case studies, we profiled drugs that were marketed using deceptive practices: Vioxx, OxyContin, Paxil, Accutane, Neurontin and Tindamax. The report was derived from the FDA's letters to drug marketers, in which the agency cautioned drug companies about the use of misleading advertising.

The report found that 38 percent of deceptive messages to doctors and consumers made unsupported or misleading claims and that FDA policies to stop deceptive advertising are ineffective.

About one-third of the drug marketers receiving FDA enforcement letters received more than one letter declaring their ads false or misleading. Drug companies have suppressed unfavor-

able clinical trials and frequently use public relations firms to write favorable research reports only to list a doctor's name on the report as the "author."

Unfortunately, deceptive marketing is targeted at doctors, too. Physicians reported being inundated with 38 different types of dangerous and misleading marketing tactics.

### Health Care For Kids

In 2007, U.S. PIRG joined the fight to

through a stop-gap measure, currently covers 6.6 million children.

The \$35 million cost would have been covered by an increase in the tobacco tax. Altria (formerly Philip Morris) and other tobacco companies have fiercely opposed similar state-level bills.

In Oregon, for example, the industry spent \$12 million in the fall of 2007 to defeat the Healthy Kids Initiative on the ballot—an initiative that Oregon State



*U.S. PIRG-backed provisions will force drug companies to post all clinical trial results, good and bad—a reform that drugmaker Merck and former CEO Raymond Gilmartin opposed.*

extend health insurance to millions of American children whose families can't afford it.

Last year, Congress twice passed bills that would expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) only to see both bills vetoed by President Bush. If either of the bills had been signed by the president, the SCHIP program could have extended coverage to 4 million more children. The program, which was renewed at current levels

PIRG worked to promote. Big Tobacco, led by Reynolds America and Altria, was particularly forceful in its opposition to the measure.

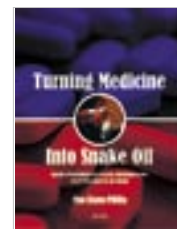
U.S. PIRG and our coalition of SCHIP backers will try again next year to fund a health insurance program that reaches out to cover uninsured and under-insured children.

## Staff

*It takes people like you funding a staff of researchers, advocates and organizers to win a victory like the one on drug safety. Here is a partial list of staff involved:*

- Phineas Baxendall**  
Tax and Budget Policy Analyst
- Steve Blackledge**  
Senior Policy Analyst
- Andre Delattre**  
Executive Director
- Virginia Robnett**  
Field Director
- Amina Fazlullah**  
Staff Attorney
- Elizabeth Hitchcock**  
Public Health Advocate
- Gary Kalman**  
Legislative Office Director
- Ed Mierzwinski**  
Senior Fellow, Consumer Program
- Rick Trilsch**  
Administrative Director

## Research



**Turning Medicine Into Snake Oil**  
How Pharmaceutical Marketers Put Patients At Risk

*False and misleading prescription drug advertising is common and dangerous. Prescription drug marketers are inundating doctors and the public with marketing that misrepresents risks, promotes unproven uses and makes unsubstantiated claims.*

# Affordable Higher Education

## Restoring Student Aid And Lowering Student Debt

U.S. PIRG led the campaign to increase student aid by \$15 billion and cut wasteful lender subsidies

In September 2007, a bill that reinstated billions of dollars in student aid was signed into law. We championed the bill, which increased the maximum Pell Grant from \$4,310 to \$5,400, limited monthly payments on federally backed loans to 15 percent of the borrower's income, and offered loan forgiveness to graduates in public service professions. To pay for the changes, the bill slashed subsidies to the \$85 billion student loan industry, which opposed the bill.

### Part I: Research

In July 2006, Higher Education Advocate Luke Swarthout and other staff released city-by-city reports, detailing how spending on student loans increased, on average, three times faster than consumer spending increased.

As health care and housing costs continued to rise, we showed that recent graduates were having a much harder time balancing their student loan debts and other core expenditures.

In another study, we documented how the growing debt carried by many students could diminish their career opportunities and have a lasting impact on important life decisions.

For example, we found that 23 percent of four-year public university graduates couldn't afford to live on a teacher's salary, due to their high debt levels.

### Part II: Organizing

Thanks to our research making headlines across the country, from The New York Times to the Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, USA Today and many others, we were able to kick our organizing into high gear.

We helped organize a coalition of our allies and mobilized students and faculty on college campuses, including the 100 campuses with PIRG chapters, to e-mail or call their members of Congress.

A proposal supported by U.S. PIRG was introduced by Sen. Edward Kennedy (Mass.). The bill would cap the percent-

age of income that recent graduates would need to devote to loan repayment at a more manageable 15 percent.

By the time Speaker Pelosi put together her "100 hours" agenda for the beginning of the 110th Congress, we had made a strong case for putting college affordability on the list of high-priority items.

### Next Steps

Passage of the student aid bill constituted the largest increase in student aid in the last 15 years and went a long way to restoring funds cut during the 2005 "raid on student aid."

U.S. PIRG will continue to work to reduce student loan debt in other venues, including countering deceptive credit card marketing and helping students find a better deal on textbooks.



Higher Education Advocate Luke Swarthout (at podium) stands with Sen. Bernie Sanders (Vt.) and Sen. Ted Kennedy (Mass.) in support of ground-breaking student aid reform.

# Youth Voter Surge

## Student PIRGs' New Voters Project Posts Huge Vote Increases

Massive voter registration drive and get-out-the-vote effort sparks increased youth vote

Thousands of young people took their first steps toward a lifetime of civic participation by registering to vote in 2006 and 2007.

U.S. PIRG helped increase their numbers through our New Voters Project, run in coordination with members of our federation across the country. The work paid off in 2008, when the youth vote (18- to 29-year-olds) more than tripled in the Iowa caucuses and increased by 25 percent in the New Hampshire primaries, compared to 2004 turnout.

### Mass Mobilization

The Student PIRGs' New Voters Project is the nation's largest nonpartisan youth voter mobilization campaign, working on more than 80 college campuses in 25 states to register and turn out young people to vote.

During 2006, the work of the New Voters Project helped make the midterm elections the third consecutive national election to demonstrate an increase in the 18- to 24-year-old voter turnout. More than 75,000 students registered to vote through the Student PIRGs in the fall of 2006, and by Election Day, student PIRG volunteers had contacted 94,593 people to remind them to vote—53,000 in the last two days. Students used peer-to-peer contacts and visibility tactics to get young people to the polls.

### Building On Past Success

Shortly after the 2006 election, the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learn-



*Young voters turned out in record numbers in 2008. The New Voters Project was a big part of the reason.*

ing and Engagement (CIRCLE) conducted an analysis of the election. It focused on a sample of youth-dense precincts targeted by the New Voters Project and found that in those precincts, the youth vote was more than twice what it was in the 2002 election and six times the national average of young adults in 2004.

“These numbers demonstrate that when you run a traditional campaign targeted at young people, they will turn out in huge numbers. Politicians would be well-served to pay attention to young people in future elections,” said Program Director Dave Rosenfeld.

## The Big Picture

The Student PIRGs' New Voters Project has registered more than 600,000 young voters since 2004.

Studies show that peer-to-peer persuasion can increase voter registration and participation among young people.

Our experience proves the studies right. In the 2004 elections, young people posted the most dramatic increases in voting of any age group.

## Research



### Paying Back, Not Giving Back

Student Debt's Negative Impact On Public Service Careers

*Two-thirds of all four-year college graduates in 2004 left school with student debt, compared with less than one-third in 1993. That debt is forcing some students to forgo careers in public service or teaching.*

# Outsourcing Accountability

## Fighting Fraud And Abuse In Government Contracting

U.S. PIRG called for more accountability for Blackwater and other federal contractors

In October 2007, the U.S. Senate approved a U.S. PIRG-backed bill to review and audit the \$450 billion in contracts awarded to Blackwater and other contractors that are completing essential government services every year.

### Research On Contractors

Leading up to passage of the bill, we released a report in October that highlighted the many problems with federal contracts in Iraq and elsewhere. "Forgiving Fraud And Failure: Profiles In Federal Contracting" analyzed hundreds of contracts and found cases of questionable performance and a lack of competition for those contracts.

The report outlined specific contractor practices, and it served as an indictment of the flawed contracting process overall.

Blackwater, the largest of three primary contractors working in Iraq, receives 90 percent of its revenue from contracts issued by the federal government. Two-thirds of them are no-bid contracts.

"These are not isolated events," said Gary Kalman, our lead advocate on the issue. "Congress must see the forest for the trees and pass systemic reform."

Contracting is the fastest-growing portion of federal discretionary spending. During the Bush administration, the number of contracts issued increased by 100 per-

cent. The projects cover a wide range of expenses, from equipment for soldiers in Iraq to relief efforts for victims displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

### More Accountability

The U.S. PIRG-backed Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act is meant to open the secretive contract process. It builds on a bill passed last year that created a database to track approximately \$1 trillion in federal grants, contracts, earmarks and loans. The new bill would build upon that law by making performance reports, lobbying activities and federal tax compliance records available to the public.

The lack of accountability in federal contracting is not limited to high-profile military contractors like Blackwater. After Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded no-bid contracts to a company with a history of defrauding the government. The IRS hired a firm that had experienced several serious data breaches of customer information to manage and secure sensitive data. The Army renewed contracts with companies that failed to test if the aircraft equipment they built worked properly.

After passing this critical reform, we'll work to make sure that companies with outstanding tax liability, records of poor performance or reports of misconduct are not rewarded with more contracts.



*After Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded no-bid contracts to companies with a history of defrauding the government.*

# Safe And Healthy Communities

## Uphill Fight To Inform And Protect People Against Toxic Chemicals

The Bush administration put limits on the public's right to know while Congress failed to act on chemical security

Americans will find it harder to learn whether companies are using or releasing toxic chemicals in their communities under changes pushed through by the Bush administration at the behest of the chemical industry and others.

Meanwhile, despite more accidents at chemical facilities and the ongoing risks posed by terrorist attacks, Congress failed to take steps to help better protect workers at these facilities and nearby residents.

### A Right To Know Less

In the face of overwhelming public opposition, in December 2006, the Bush administration's EPA issued a rule exempting more than 3,500 facilities from reporting their pollution under the Toxic Release Inventory program (TRI). The rule also allows polluters to keep the public in the dark about releases of up to 500 pounds of persistent bio-accumulative toxins.

Thanks to U.S. PIRG's work, Congress put up a fight, opposing the change, but by year's end, the rollback to the TRI program was finalized.

Almost seven years after Sept. 11, chemical plants, whether because of "routine" toxic releases or because of the risk of a catastrophic accident, remain just as dangerous. U.S. PIRG pushed Congress to pass common-sense reforms that would require chemical plants to replace danger-



*Thousands of Americans live in harm's way in the event of an accident or attack at a chemical facility.*

ous chemicals with non-toxic alternatives, a move that would protect thousands of nearby residents and workers. The chemical industry lobby won this round, but not before U.S. PIRG and our coalition of emergency responders, public health organizations and local leaders won unanimous approval of the bill in a key House committee.

The same bill was re-introduced in the 110th Congress, and we'll work to build stronger support to pass the bill in 2008.

## Online Action

In 2006, Federal Legislative Director Gary Kalman launched his blog on National Public Radio's Justice Talking. In the past two years, Senior Fellow Ed Mierzwinski's blog has been a must-read for consumer reporters. State directors across the country launched numerous blogs in 2006 and 2007.

In 2006, 255,721 online actions were taken by U.S. PIRG activists. Whether submitting a public comment or writing a letter to the editor, our e-activists are a critical part of U.S. PIRG's work.

## Research



### Preventing Toxic Terrorism

Removing Danger To American Communities

*U.S. PIRG released a report surveying chemical facilities in a range of industries across the country that have switched from hazardous chemicals to safer alternatives, resulting in domestic security and public safety benefits.*

# Kid-Safe Products

## States Passed Precedent-Setting Public Health Laws

Our staff and members helped pass a ban on PBDEs, a class of toxic chemicals in consumer goods

U.S. PIRG worked at the state level to pass precedent-setting public health laws. In Washington, WashPIRG helped ban all forms of PBDEs, a developmental toxin increasingly found in kids' bodies. In California, CALPIRG helped ban phthalates—a dangerous additive in plastics—from all products for children. In pushing states to ban classes of toxic chemicals, we're hoping to clear the way for similar action at the federal level.

### WashPIRG-Backed PBDE Ban

Even in small amounts, PBDEs can cause serious damage to reproductive and immune systems. PBDEs are used in televisions, laptops and other electronics and are increasingly used in mattresses and other furniture. A flame retardant, the chemical finds its way from airborne dust into human bodies, rivers and streams.

Gov. Christine Gregoire signed a WashPIRG-backed PBDE ban into law on April 17. With this law, Washington became the first state to ban all forms of PBDEs.

Safer alternatives to PBDEs are used by Dell, Apple and HP, and furniture manufacturers such as IKEA. Yet the chemical industry opposed the bill. Lobbyists from Albemarle and Great Lakes Chemical aggressively spread misinformation about the bill's impacts, and convinced a few key state senators not to let it come up for a vote in 2005. In 2007, working with a coalition of firefighters and public

health advocates, we helped convince the Legislature to pass the bill. The state of Maine followed Washington's lead and banned all PBDEs later in 2007.

### California Bans Phthalates

Scientific studies show that phthalates can interfere with the natural functioning of the hormone system, especially in the developing bodies of children. Phthalates are linked to premature birth and early onset of puberty and can cause reproductive and developmental problems.

Phthalates are added to PVC plastic to make it soft and flexible. Among many

other things, they are used in soft plastic toys and other baby products, such as teething rings, bath books and "rubber" ducks. Phthalates are not chemically bonded to PVC plastic, allowing them to leach from the plastic.

As in Washington, the chemical industry, this time under the auspices of its trade association, the American Chemistry Council, led an opposition campaign of misinformation. They denounced the law and claimed on their "Phthalates Information Center" Web site that phthalates pose no health risks to children

On Oct. 14, 2007, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law the bill that we championed—the first statewide ban on phthalates in the products that kids use.



*Our work in California, including press events with a giant rubber ducky, helped raise visibility about phthalates in kids' products. The state passed a U.S. PIRG-backed phthalate ban in 2007.*

# Smoke-Free Workplaces

## Standing Up To Big Tobacco

Maryland PIRG worked to make all of Baltimore's workplaces smoke-free—then took the campaign statewide

U.S. PIRG has tangled with the tobacco lobby in many arenas, winning support for smoke-free restaurants and bars in Chicago and later Illinois, Colorado, Massachusetts and other states and cities, most recently in Baltimore and Maryland. We're working for similar changes in Wisconsin and Georgia.

Second-hand smoke contains 69 different chemicals that cause cancer, and kills at least 53,000 non-smoking Americans a year. Since California went smoke-free, the state's rate of lung cancer dropped by nearly 20 percent—now the lowest in the nation.

In May 2007, Maryland PIRG pushed the fight in Maryland over the top, helping the entire state go smoke-free.

### First The City, Then The State

Maryland PIRG's work in Baltimore played a critical role in bringing about smoke-free restaurants and bars across the state. In the 17 other states that have made all public indoor places smoke-free, the state's major city has led the way. Maryland PIRG launched its Smoke-Free Baltimore Campaign in the fall of 2006, partnering with the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association and the American Lung Association of Maryland to form the Smoke Free Charm City Coalition.

Led by Maryland PIRG, the coalition collected postcards, canvassed neighborhoods, held press events with supportive restaurant owners and lobbied City Council-



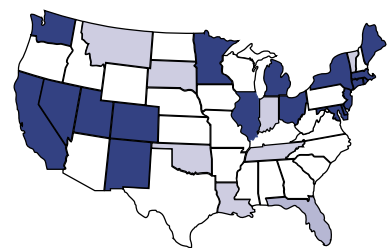
Maryland PIRG's Johanna Neumann led the fight to make restaurants and bars in Baltimore, then the state of Maryland, smoke-free.

members until the City Council finally voted in February 2007 to make the city's restaurants and bars smoke-free. The Baltimore decision gave a critical boost to a previously stalled statewide bill. Howard, Prince George's, Talbot and Montgomery counties already had similar laws on the books and Baltimore's decision proved to be the tipping point.

Gov. Martin O'Malley signed the Clean Indoor Air Act into law in May 2007. And starting Feb. 1, 2008, families will be able to enjoy a meal without the inconvenience and danger of second-hand smoke.

## Working Together

### A State-By-State Smoke-Free Summary



■ Full smoking ban    ■ Partial Ban

Smoke-free legislation is moving forward throughout the country. To date, 18 states and the District of Columbia have passed comprehensive smoke-free workplace laws—six of them with campaign support from state PIRGs.

California led the way in 1998 when it passed smoke-free bar and restaurant legislation statewide. Four years later, Delaware followed suit.

The state of New York adopted smoke-free policies after Mayor Bloomberg went smoke-free in New York City, and the city of Chicago prompted the state of Illinois to go smoke-free.

Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine went smoke-free in 2004. Thanks to our advocacy, Vermont, Rhode Island and Washington joined the list in 2005.

In 2006, Colorado, Utah, New Jersey, Ohio and Hawaii adopted the smoke-free laws. Illinois, Minnesota, Maryland and Washington, D.C., are the most recent additions to the list.

# U.S. PIRG Supporters

## U.S. PIRG and U.S. PIRG Education Fund

Citizen support is the cornerstone of our work. Tens of thousands of Americans supported U.S. PIRG by making membership contributions in 2006 and 2007. The members listed on the following pages were particularly generous in their support of our work. Names that appear in italics denote U.S. PIRG Public Interest Partners. These members provide stability to the organization's resources through our monthly giving program.

### Development Committee

Development Committee members supported the organization with contributions of more than \$1,000.

Bill Becker  
Hal Burnett  
Duncan Chaplin  
Lindsay Dahl  
William Drew  
Adelaide Gomer  
*Geoffrey Guzynski*  
Jay Harris  
Joseph Iannucci  
Lorrie Kaplan  
Ann M. Kappler  
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Set Mardirosian  
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Douglas H. Phelps  
*Anthony Picadio*  
David Pollatsek  
Matthew Roth  
Pamela H. Saussy  
*Susan Sheely*  
Lee Wittenstein  
Mark Wittink

### Patrons

Patrons supported the organization with contributions of \$500 or more.

*Stacia Abel*  
Christine Andersen  
Bradley Anderson  
John Arbab  
Brian Arbogast  
*John Bailey*  
*Carolyn Ball*

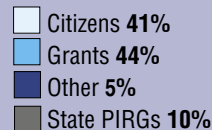
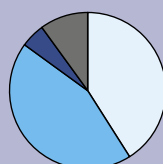
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*Patty Bieber*  
Stephen & Laura Brown  
Greg Brunette  
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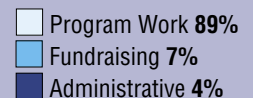
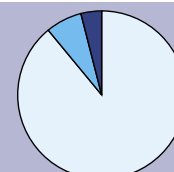
### Financial Information

Charts reflect FY06 and FY07 financial information for U.S. PIRG, U.S. PIRG Education Fund and U.S. PIRG's citizen outreach programs.

### FY06 Income



### FY06 Expenses



## Partners

Partners supported the organization with contributions of \$400 or more.

Nick Ajay  
Cindy Anderson  
Mark Anheier  
Diane Badger  
John Bailey  
Lisa Barnard  
Andy Bednarz  
Lynn Bezilla  
David Bills  
Deborah Blank  
Jeffrey Botkin  
Lisa Boyette  
Sheila Brogna  
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Yuri Long  
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Amy Wadsworth  
Phil Warner  
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John Windhausen  
Kevin Winters  
Linda Wirth  
Karl Witt  
Steven Wright

## Foundation Support

U.S. PIRG Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization, conducts research and public education on emerging public interest issues. Contributions to U.S. PIRG Education Fund are tax-deductible. In 2006 and 2007, U.S. PIRG Education Fund and U.S. PIRG received grants from:

AARP  
The Beldon Fund  
Carnegie Corporation of New York  
Colston Warne Program of Consumers Union  
Educational Foundation of America  
Energy Foundation  
Ford Foundation  
Jessie M. Harris Fund of the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Media Democracy Fund  
Media and Democracy Coalition  
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Surdna Foundation  
The Donald P. Tucker and Family Charitable Fund  
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## Featured Giving Opportunities

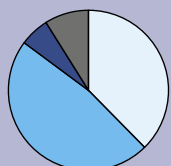
### Planned Giving

Members who include U.S. PIRG in their wills leave a legacy of activism that will protect public health, defend the rights of consumers, and stand up for democracy for decades to come. For more information about including U.S. PIRG in your estate and major giving plans, call (800) 841-7299 or e-mail [PlannedGiving@uspig.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@uspig.org).

### Earth Share

U.S. PIRG Education Fund participates in workplace giving programs with Earth Share, a federation of local, state and national environmental groups. Our designation number in the Combined Federal Campaign is #11441. If your employee giving program does not currently include environmental organizations, please urge them to include Earth Share in your payroll deduction program.

## FY07 Income



Citizens **37%**  
Grants **48%**  
Other **6%**  
State PIRGs **9%**

## FY07 Expenses



Program Work **90%**  
Fundraising **6%**  
Administrative **4%**

## Credits

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U.S. PIRG, the Federation of State PIRGs, has offices in 25 states and Washington, D.C. A partial list of our leadership:



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Chair, Board Of  
Directors



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Executive Director



**Gary Kalman**  
Federal Legislative  
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**Ed Mierzwinski**  
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**Steve Blackledge**  
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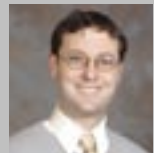
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CoPIRG



**Andrew MacDonald**  
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**Brad Ashwell**  
Legislative Advocate  
Florida PIRG



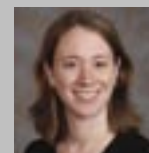
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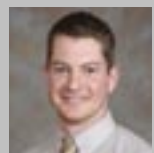
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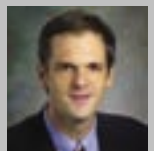
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**Morgan Keenan**  
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**Blair Anundson**  
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## U.S. PIRG

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Membership Services Department  
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