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AR 33 **In Support of Banning Anti-Bacterial Soaps Containing Triclosan at The University of Texas at Austin**

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WHEREAS, Triclosan is the antibacterial agent currently used in antibacterial hand soaps; and

WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency is considering banning Triclosan in hand soaps[1][2]; and

WHEREAS, The Food and Drug Administration is currently reviewing the safety of Triclosan[3]; and

WHERAS, In 2000 the American Medical Association said that "there is little evidence to support the use of antimicrobials in consumer products" and, considering the risk of antimicrobial resistance, "it may be prudent to avoid the use of antimicrobial agents in consumer products."[4]; and

WHEREAS, Soaps containing Triclosan are not more effective than regular soap and water (i.e., soap without Triclosan) in preventing the spread of infections or reducing bacteria on the skin[5]; and

WHEREAS, Wastewater treatment plants do not remove Triclosan from the water[6]; and

WHERAS, Triclosan is found in the urine of 75% of Americans over the age of five[7]; and

WHEREAS, Higher levels of Triclosan in the urine are associated with an increased likelihood of developing allergies and hay fever[8]; and

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[1] http://news.change.org/stories/epa-considers-banning-triclosan-a-common-anti-bacterial-in-soap
[2] http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/triclosan-ban
[3] http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/20/business/triclosan-an-antibacterial-chemical-in-consumer-products-raises-safety-issues.html?pagewanted=all
[4] http://www.psr.org/environment-and-health/confronting-toxics/pesticides/triclosan.html
[5] http://www.ewg.org/node/26859
[6] http://www.beyondpesticides.org/pesticides/factsheets/Triclosan%20cited.pdf
[7] http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/20/business/triclosan-an-antibacterial-chemical-in-consumer-products-raises-safety-issues.html?pagewanted=all

WHEREAS, Triclosan is a potential carcinogen[9]; and

WHEREAS, Ingesting Triclosan harms the human immune system by decreasing the function of "human natural killer cells", which are a first-line immune defense against tumor cells and virally infected cells[10];

WHERAS, Triclosan in water may react with UV rays to produce low levels of dioxins, which are highly carcinogenic, weaken the immune system, decrease fertility, disrupt sex hormones, and are linked to miscarriages and birth defects[11]; and

WHEREAS, Triclosan can react with free Chlorine ions in water to form chloroform, a substance the EPA classifies as a probable human carcinogen[12],

WHEREAS, Triclosan has shown to affect the human sex hormone pathway, which has the potential of altering human brain development, reproductive development, and onset of puberty; and (citation coming from Nadia)

WHEREAS, Triclosan has shown to indirectly harm aquatic life by blocking enzyme carrying proteins; and (citation coming from Nadia)

WHEREAS, Exposing bacteria to Triclosan can create resistant bacteria[13] [14], including bacteria with less permeable bacterial cell envelopes such that Triclosan does not readily penetrate beyond the outer layer of the cell[15];

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[8] Clayton, E. M. R., et al., (2011). The impact of Bisphenol A and Triclosan on immune parameters in the U.S. population, NHANES 2003-2006. *Environmental Health Perspectives, 119,* 390-396.

[9] http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/552007_5

[10] Martin, T., et al., (2010). Immunosuppressive effects of triclosan, nonylphenol, and DDT on human natural killer cells in vitro. *Journal of Immunotoxicology, 7,* 205-212.

[11] http://www.psr.org/environment-and-health/confronting-toxics/pesticides/triclosan.html

[12] Rule, K. L., et al., (2005). Formation of chloroform and chlorinated organics by free-chlorine-mediated oxidation of triclosan. *Environmental Science and Technology, 39,* 3176-3185.

[13] Lear, J.C., et al., (2002). Chloroxylenol- and triclosan-tolerant bacteria from industrial from industrial sources. *Journal of Industrial Microbiology & Biotechnology, 29,* p. 238-243.

[14] Copitch, J. L., et al., (2010). Prevalence of decreased susceptibility to triclosan in Salmonella enterica isolates from animals and humans and association with multiple drug resistance. *International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents, 36,* 247-251.

[15] http://www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/car/pec/pec30/pec_30_full_report_pdf.pdf

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WHEREAS, Antibacterial soaps containing Triclosan cost 50 percent more than comparable soaps without Triclosan; and

WHEREAS, Those who currently purchase hand soap for the University of Texas have already agreed to no longer purchase soaps containing Triclosan; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin believes that antibacterial soaps containing Triclosan are dangerous to the health of students and aquatic wildlife, and that the University should adopt an official policy preventing the purchase of anti-bacterial soaps containing Triclosan with the exception of University Health Services; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, That a Student Government representative will discuss with University Health Services potential ways of informing students about the dangers of Triclosan using bathroom literature similar to the Healthy Horns Handwashing campaign and/or other ways to inform students; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED That official copies of this resolution be delivered to the University of Texas at Austin's Office of the President, Chancellor of the University of Texas System, the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, The Division of Housing and Food Services, New Student Services, University Health Services and the Office of the Vice President of University Operations.