



Statement

For Immediate Release

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SUGGESTED LINK BETWEEN PHTHALATES AND OBESITY NOT SUPPORTED BY SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

ARLINGTON, VA (June 24, 2009) – *The American Chemistry Council (ACC) today responded to a study by Teitelbaum et al. on childhood obesity.*

ACC Managing Director, Chris Bryant, issued the following statement:

“This study by Teitelbaum et al makes no claim that exposure to phthalates causes an increase in weight. The authors clearly report only a very preliminary statistical correlation between weight and phthalate exposure, and note further study is required. The study involves no actual laboratory research, but just mathematical analysis.

"Moreover, the suggestion of an obesity link is implausible in biological terms. Ongoing animal studies have shown that the phthalate in question, diethyl phthalate (DEP), has very minimal biological activity in living organisms. We are not aware of any scientific evidence from decades of animal studies that links DEP, or any phthalate for that matter, to an increase in weight.”

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$689 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.

