



Legislation on Radiofrequency Radiation and Public Health
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United States

Legislation has been introduced at the state and national level. Some Communities have issued proclamations, resolutions and started initiatives to inform the public of wireless health issues.

National

2012 Proposed National Law [The Cell Phone Right to Know Act H.R. 6358](#) sponsored by Ohio Democrat Dennis Kucinich and had three co-sponsors: Napolitano, Grace [D-CA38], Pingree, Chellie [D-ME1] and Cummings, Elijah [D-MD7] This bill was introduced on August 3, 2012 but was not enacted. Read the text [here](#).

HR 6358 received strong support from the American Academy of Pediatrics Read the AAP Letter [here](#). Congressional hearings in 2009 provided expert testimony to Congress. [Watch CSPAN VIDEO](#).

Library of Congress Summary: Written by the Congressional Research Service

Cell Phone Right to Know Act - Requires the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to:

1. conduct or support a comprehensive research program to determine whether exposure to electromagnetic fields from mobile communication devices causes adverse biological effects in humans, including vulnerable subpopulations such as children, pregnant women, those with compromised immune systems and hypersensitivity reactions, men and women of reproductive age, and the elderly;
2. disseminate research results to the general public; and
3. report findings and conclusions to Congress.

Directives:

- Directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to promulgate regulations to allow a subscriber to access personally or to give consent to allow researchers with institutional review board approval to access specific usage data required to investigate the link between electromagnetic radiation exposure and potential adverse biological effects in humans.
- Directs the EPA to promulgate regulations establishing maximum exposure level goals and maximum exposure levels for exposure to electromagnetic fields generated by mobile communication devices.
- Directs the Commissioner of Food and Drugs (FDA) to promulgate regulations to provide for labeling (including exposure ratings and the maximum allowable exposure levels and goals) on mobile communication devices, packaging, instruction manuals, and at points of sale in stores and on websites.
- Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to increase: (1) the number and size of grants to institutions for training scientists in the field of examining the relationship between electromagnetic fields and human health; and (2) the number of career development awards for such training for health professionals pursuing careers in pediatric basic and clinical research, including pediatric pharmacological research.

Amends the Public Health Service Act to establish a graduate educational loan repayment program and authorize national awards for researchers in such fields.

Amends the Communications Act of 1934 with respect to the prohibition on state or local government zoning regulation of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radiofrequency emissions. Excludes from such prohibition state or local regulation based on the adverse human health effects of emissions of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields.

State And Local Laws

California, Berkeley: [May 12, 2015 Berkeley Adopted the Cell Phone "Right to Know" Ordinance on a Unanimous Vote.](#) Berkeley is the first city in the nation to require cell phone retailers to provide those who purchase a new phone an informational fact sheet which informs buyers to read the user manual to learn the cell phone's minimum separation distance from the body. The text states:

"The City of Berkeley requires that you be provided the following notice:
To assure safety, the Federal Government requires that cell phones meet radio frequency (RF) exposure guidelines. If you carry or use your phone in a pants or shirt pocket or tucked into a bra when the phone is ON and connected to a wireless network, you may exceed the federal guidelines for exposure to RF radiation. Refer to the instructions in your phone or user manual for information about how to use your phone safely." [Full text here.](#)

Watch [a video of the historic vote](#) featuring Harvard Law professor Lawrence Lessig.

Watch [a video of testimony to Berkeley](#) from November 8, 2011 on the need for cell phone radiation guidelines.

Suffolk County, New York: [Wireless Router Labeling in all Suffolk Public buildings:](#) 12/2014 The Suffolk County Legislature *passed legislation* to require all county buildings to post notices that wireless routers are in use such as, "Notice: Wireless technology in use." The resolution, sponsored by Legis. William Spencer (a physician), warns that every wireless device emits radio frequency radiation or microwave radiation. It notes that studies "that have looked at the effects of low-level RFR radiation on human cells and DNA have been inconclusive." [Read Press Release.](#)

2015 Nassau County will have a *proposed* Wireless Router Labeling Act that would place visible warning signs in all county buildings and facilities where a wireless router is located.. [Please read recent coverage of the initiative here.](#)

San Francisco, California: [Cell Phone Radiation \(How to Reduce Exposures\)](#) Webpage launched. Answers on [how to reduce exposures](#) to cell phone radiation. San Francisco developed the following public health information resources:

- Answers on [How to reduce exposures](#) to cell phone radiation.
- A [Poster](#) on Cell Phones and RF Radiation
- A [Factsheet](#) for the Public
- [Display stickers](#) for Cell Phone packaging.

San Francisco, California: A *Passed* 2011 Ordinance by the City of San Francisco required cell phone retailers to distribute an educational sheet created by the San Francisco Department of Environment that explains radiofrequency emissions from cell phones and details how consumers can minimize their exposure. However implementation was blocked after a [three year court battle. The CTIA sued the city](#) and settled with the City to block implementation of the Ordinance in exchange for a waiver of attorney's' fees. The City Cell Phone Radiation Webpage remains online.

- Read the [Open Letter to San Francisco Mayor and Board of Supervisors](#)
- Read [San Francisco's Cell Phone Fact Sheet is Factual](#)
- [Watch video from testimony to the City of San Francisco](#)
- [Watch video of San Francisco Supervisor discussing the Ordinance here.](#)

2014 [The Maine LD 1013 "The Wireless Information Act"](#) passed the State Senate and House but then failed to pass the second vote. The Bill requires manufacturer's information on radio-frequency exposure be visible on the outside of the cell phone's product packaging.

- [Please a video of State Representative Andrea Boland on how the legislation was thwarted.](#)
- [Read Maine's "Cellular Telephone Labeling Act" -April 17, 2015](#)
- Read [Cell Phone Radiation Label Bill Passes Maine Legislature Before Dying](#)

2015 Oregon HB 3350: This proposed (**did not pass**) legislation directs the Department of Education to prepare statement that discloses potential health risks of wireless technology and requires public and private schools to distribute statement to employees and parents of students. It declares an emergency effective July 1, 2015. [Read the Bill here.](#)

2015 Oregon HB 3351: This proposed (**did not pass**) legislation states that cell phones must have a visible written label that advises consumers of possible risks and steps that consumers can take to reduce the risk of radio-frequency radiation exposure from cellular telephone use. [Read it here.](#)

2014 Hawaii Senate Bill SB 2571 was introduced (**did not pass**) calling for a warning label encouraging consumers to follow the enclosed product safety guidelines to reduce exposure to radiation that may be hazardous to their health.

SB 932 California: This 2011 legislation (**did not pass**) would have required retailers to include notices on product packaging that cell phones emit radio frequency (RF) energy. A second notice would be posted at the point of sale when purchasing online or in a physical store.

HB 1408 Pennsylvania: This 2011 proposed(**did not pass**) law would require warning labels on cell phones “to inform all citizens about possible health dangers that have been linked to microwave radiation that is emitted by cellular telephones and the steps that can be taken to mitigate those dangers, especially as they relate to children and pregnant women.”

- Dr. Ronald B. Herberman, former director of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI) and the UPMC Cancer Center offered testimony at a PA House Democratic Policy Committee hearing. CBS Local coverage of hearing [HERE](#). Philadelphia Tribune News coverage [Here](#).

SB 679 Oregon: This 2011 proposed (**did not pass**) law would require warning labels for all new cell phones and cell phone packaging. [Watch a news video about the law here.](#)

Requests For Reviews on Electromagnetic Fields and Health

2015 NEW Massachusetts *proposed* MA [Senate Bill 1222](#): An Act creating a special commission to study the health impacts of electromagnetic fields and [Bill H2007](#): An Act relative to a special commission to study electric and magnetic fields. *Bills Still in Process as of August, 2015.* [Watch a view of the statehouse briefing on RF here.](#)

HM 32, New Mexico: This 2011 proposed law request the Department of Health and the Department of Environment to study and review all available literature and reports on the effects of cell phone radiation on human health.

Proclamations and Resolutions

2012 Wyoming: Jackson Hole issued a [Proclamation of Cell Phone Awareness](#) which cites concern over long term health effects as well as the increased risk that the radiation poses to children.

"WHEREAS, these longer term risks may be greater for children than adults because their skulls are thinner and their brains and bodies are smaller and faster growing;"

2012 Florida: Pembroke Pines, passed Resolution [3362](#) expressing the City's "Urgent Concerns" about Wireless Radiation and Health and which encourages citizens to read their manuals and presents information on how to reduce exposure by using a headset or speakerphone. Jimmy Gonzalez, an attorney who had developed brain cancer after heavy cell use, initially petitioned the Commission. [Watch the Video of his powerful testimony here.](#)

2010 Maine, Portland :Mayor Mavodenes, Jr. declared October "Cell Phone Awareness Month"

2014 Greenbelt, Maryland, : [The Greenbelt Maryland City Council voted unanimously on November 24, 2014](#) to do the following:

1. Alert citizens about the fine print warnings and possible health risks of cell phones and wireless devices By sharing the Environmental Health Trusts 10 Steps to Safe Tech and Doctors Advice on Cell Phones Brochure in City health fairs and city centers.
2. To send the FCC Chairman a letter urging the adoption of "radiation standards that will protect human health and safety." [Read Letter here.](#)
3. To oppose cell towers on school grounds and write a letter to the local school board and County Executive.

The Council received strong opposition from Industry. Please read the letters sent to the Council [from the CTIA](#) and from [Milestone Communications](#), the cell tower leasing company.

2010 California: Burlingame California City Council voted to include cell phone safety [guidelines](#) in their Healthy Living in Burlingame initiative (WHO classification and consumer precautions).

Colorado 2009 The Governor of Colorado issued a Proclamation on Electrical Hypersensitivity.

"Electromagnetic Sensitivity is a painful chronic illness of hypersensitive reactions to electromagnetic radiations. WHEREAS, the symptoms of EMS include, dermal changes, acute numbness and tingling, dermatitis, flashing, headaches, arrhythmia, muscular weakness, tinnitus, malaise, gastric problems, nausea, visual disturbances, severe neurological, respiratory, speech problems, and numerous other physiological symptoms.

WHEREAS, Electromagnetic Sensitivity is recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the US Access Board and numerous commissions;" [Read the Proclamation HERE.](#)

May 2009 The Governor of Connecticut issued a Proclamation on Electrical Hypersensitivity.

"WHEREAS, the health of the general population is at risk from electromagnetic exposures that can lead to illness indicted by electromagnetic radiations; and, WHEREAS, this illness may be preventable through the reduction or avoidance of electromagnetic radiations, in both outdoor and indoor environments and by conducting further scientific research; and, " [Read the Proclamation HERE.](#)

Broward County Florida May 2009, The Mayor issued a Proclamation on Electrical Hypersensitivity.

"WHEREAS, as a result of global electromagnetic pollution, people of all ages in Broward County and throughout the world have developed an illness known as Electromagnetic Sensitivity; and, " [Read it all HERE.](#)

Notable Worldwide Legislation

France [National Legislation “Law on sobriety, transparency, information and consultation for exposure to electromagnetic waves”](#) passed in 2015.

- WiFi Banned in Nursery School, WiFi on “OFF” as Default to Minimize Exposures in Schools, Cell Tower Emission Compliance Will Be Verified, Citizens Will Have Access to Environmental/Cell Tower Radiation Measurements Near homes, Continued Evaluation of Health Effects, SAR Radiation Labeling Mandated, WIFI Hotspots will be Labeled and within a year, a report on electrohyper sensitivity must be given to the Parliament.

[2011 French Cell Phone Statute](#): Merchants must display SAR Radiation levels for different phone models, all phones must be sold with a headset, cell phone ads aimed at children younger than 14 are banned and phones made for children under 6 are banned.

Belgium [Federal Public Health Regulations](#) passed on March 2013 due to Health Concerns for Children.

- Phones designed for children under 7 years old are prohibited from sale.
- Total Advertising Ban on cell phones aimed at children younger than 14.
- Mandatory Radiation SAR levels must be available for consumers at point of sale.
- Warning label on phones: “Think about your health – use your mobile phone moderately, make your calls wearing an earpiece and choose a set with a lower SAR value.”
- Recommendations include use of hands-free methods to keep the phone away from the body such as text messaging and not making calls when the signal is weak, such as in elevator/vehicle.
- See examples of the [posters](#) that shops must display.
- Read Belgium’s [frequently asked questions](#).
- You can download the [Royal Decree on the ban of mobile phones for children here](#).
- The Royal Decree which makes the mention of the SAR [value mandatory for mobile phone sales and which prohibits advertising for children can be downloaded here](#).

Canada

- [Canadian Parliament Standing Committee on Health of the House of Commons issued a report “Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Radiation and the Health of Canadians”](#) on June, 2015 after holding public hearings regarding Health Canada’s Safety Code 6 recommended limits. They made 12 recommendations including an awareness campaign on reducing exposures, improved information collecting and policy measures regarding the marketing of radiation emitting devices to children under the age of 14, "in order to ensure they are aware of the health risks and how they can be avoided."
- **2015: [National Bill C-648 Introduced into the House Of Commons](#)**, “An Act Respecting the Prevention of Potential Health Risks From Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Radiation” would require manufacturers of all wireless devices to place specific health warning labels clearly on packaging, or face daily penalties /fines and/or imprisonment. Press Conference for [Bill C-648 Video](#).

Over 20 Countries are taking action.

[International Policy Actions Worldwide](#): EHT Briefing

Redmayne M. [International policy and advisory response regarding children's exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic fields \(RF-EMF\)](#). Electromagn Biol Med. 2015 Jun 19:1-9.