



DIANE ROSENBAUM
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

To: House Committee on Health Care
From: Senator Diane Rosenbaum
Date: February 8th, 2012
RE: Testimony in support of HB 4123: Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids

Co-Chairs Greenlick and Thompson, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4123: Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids.

While breast cancer rates for older women are decreasing, breast cancer diagnoses for younger women continue to increase. This is troubling and scientists have evidence to believe that toxic chemicals—including endocrine disrupting chemicals such as BPA and phthalates commonly found in consumer products—interfere with the body's normal hormone functions.

New science is emerging that these endocrine disrupting chemicals are acting as chemical “obesogens,” meaning they can promote fat cell development.

This fat cell development has been linked to the promotion of early onset puberty for girls in the United States by one to two years earlier. The premature maturation of girls has implications for breast cancer down the road.

Scientists now know that even small amounts of these chemicals during critical times in development—fetal and childhood—can set off a chain of events that have detrimental lifelong health consequences.

HB 4123 is a bill that takes a modest approach to identifying exposures to potentially harmful chemicals for Oregon's most vulnerable citizens to ensure that their growing bodies develop normally. While it's a modest approach, it has a meaningful impact for Oregon's children and future generations of Oregonian.

Co-Chairs Greenlick and Thompson, Members of the Committee, thank you again for hearing this bill and I encourage you to support HB 4123.

Thank you,

Diane Rosenbaum

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