



**Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward**

**District 17**

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Co-Chair  
Representative Jim Thompson, Co-Chair  
House Health Care Committee

Testimony on HB 4123

Co-Chair Greenlick, Co-Chair Thompson, Members of the Committee. For the record, I am Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, a family physician and the Senator from District 17.

As a family physician, I am all too aware of the multiple factors that contribute to chronic disease, including poor nutrition; a sedentary lifestyle; use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs; genetic predisposition; and, most relevant to the bill under consideration, exposure to chemicals from a range of sources. In particular, exposure to potentially harmful chemicals in childhood can have more severe consequences down the road.

Extensive environmental health studies over the past 30 years have demonstrated that a range of chemicals are contributing to increases in childhood cancers (up more than 20% since 1975), breast cancer, infertility in younger women, and asthma. It is clear that with chemicals, as in so many other aspects of medicine, the proverbial ounce of prevention is the best way to mitigate the effects of these chemicals. And yet, we do not have good data as to what chemicals are present in products that our youngest constituents, children under 12, are exposed to on a daily basis, including skin lotions, cosmetics, toys, bedding, and so many more.

This bill will require the Oregon Health Authority to publish a list of chemicals that are of particular concern for children, and require manufacturers of products specified in the bill to notify the Authority if any of their products contain these concerning chemicals. This information will enable public health officials to better understand where harmful exposure are occurring and potentially enable public health officials to track relationships between exposure to certain chemicals and downstream effects.

Family physicians care deeply about helping people be healthy for a lifetime. Enacting this bill will facilitate our efforts in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

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State Senator, District 17

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