

TO: HOUSE HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE
FROM: KASANDRA GRIFFIN, UPSTREAM PUBLIC HEALTH
DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2012
RE: HB 4123 TOXICS REDUCTION ACT



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

Good afternoon. My name is Kasandra Griffin. I am the Policy Manager at Upstream Public Health, a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of all Oregonians.

Most of us can agree on these 2 points:

1. We should protect kids from the most worst toxic offenders, and
2. Families have the right to know which toxic compounds their kids are being exposed to.

Oregonians are exposed to harmful toxins everyday where we work, live, study, and play – often through consumer products. Children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to the health impacts associated with exposures to harmful toxins.

This bill is a common sense approach. It would set up a science-based approach to disclose information about the most critical toxins of concern. HB 4123 is a first step in getting families the information they need to make safety determinations on the toxins their children are exposed to from products they use.

The risks are too great to not act. Lead poisoning, asthma, cancer, and developmental disabilities are all linked to toxin exposure in the U.S., and those result in illness, suffering and an annual price tag of more than \$54 billion. Therefore, reducing exposures to harmful toxins is essential to ensuring the health and safety of our communities.

Other States are taking leadership roles by creating policies to reduce unnecessary, dangerous toxins in everyday products. Washington, Maine, Minnesota, and California have all recently passed such laws.

Upstream believes it is a moral imperative for the State to equip parents with the information necessary to be informed about their children's safety. Upstream Public Health asks this committee to take this first step, and pass HB 4123.