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Testimony Before the House Health Care Committee on HB 3162

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**Jason Graham-Nye
Co-Founder/CEO, gDiapers**

Chair Greenlick and members of the House Committee on Health Care, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Jason Graham-Nye and I am the Co-Founder and CEO of gDiapers.

gDiapers is a global company with its headquarters in Oregon, founded to eliminate disposable diapers from the planet. We moved to the US from Australia to start the company and chose Oregon because we believe it's the best place for a business committed to sustainability. Our products are now sold nationwide and overseas, and are carried by major retailers including Target and Babies R Us.

As a manufacturer of children's products for sale in Oregon, we are among the businesses that would be required to report and phase out chemicals of concern under House Bill 3162 – and we fully support this bill. HB 3162 is good for businesses, it's good for kids, and it's good for our communities.

We support HB 3162 because it will help to protect kids' health while also fostering innovation in the development and use of safer alternatives to chemicals of concern. Our own experience demonstrates how identifying chemicals of concern and finding safer alternatives can be done cost-effectively. Not only has this process helped gDiapers improve our products, but it is also having a positive impact on our supply chain.

I'd like to share our experience with identifying chemicals of concern and phasing them out, a process very similar to the one proposed under HB 3162.

In 2005 as we prepared to launch the brand in the US, we had the product assessed using the "Cradle to Cradle" protocol (www.MBDC.com). We discovered the presence of a chemical that was categorized as "Red" in that protocol. That meant that it was harmful to either the planet or humans. The supplier of the material that contained the chemical found a safer alternative for the same cost in 3 months.

Based on our experience, we know finding safer alternatives to chemicals of concern is feasible – even growing businesses like ours can do it. As we can attest, the 5-year time frame for removing these hazardous chemicals is practical and reasonable for manufacturers.

We continue to invest in testing to ensure the safety of our products, and strive to continually improve our products. gDiapers are the only diaper to be certified Cradle to Cradle, a rigorous product certification that includes chemical hazard criteria.

gDiapers is in our 7th year which is around the time many companies sell, but we are proud to do business in this state and are committed to staying in Oregon for the long haul.

As a business owner who has seen the positive effects of identifying chemicals of concern and phasing them out of our products, we urge you to support HB 3162. We strongly support its passage and thank the distinguished members of the committee for your consideration.

Jason Graham-Nye
Co-Founder/CEO, gDiapers