



## HB 3162

Rep. Mitch Greenlick and Rep. Joe Thompson, Co-Chairs  
House Health Care Committee

My name is Dr. Andy Harris. I am a Clinical Assistant Professor and Senior Instructor at OHSU, but am testifying as a board member of Oregon Center for Christian Voices [OCCV].

OCCV advocates for the poor and needy, those who are most vulnerable and marginalized in our society. We are committed to economic and social justice and are a voice for those who are unable to speak for themselves.

It seems inconceivable that manufacturers knowingly put toxic chemicals in products intended for children. The 19 chemicals listed in HB 3162 include arsenic, cadmium, mercury, benzene, and formaldehyde, among the most toxic known chemicals. They need to be identified in children's products, and subsequently removed, for the health of our children.

Because of time constraints I'll be able to discuss just one chemical, **formaldehyde**, which is contained in such products as Aveeno Baby Calming Comfort Bath, Breck Kids 2-in-1 Shampoo, Disney Princess Bubble Bath, and Johnson's Baby Shampoo. Of relevance is that Aveeno, Disney, Johnson and other companies already have comparable baby products on the market, which use other less toxic preservatives, not containing formaldehyde.

Formaldehyde is classified as a human carcinogen by the World Health Organization (WHO) and a probable human carcinogen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Formaldehyde has been found to be genotoxic, meaning it can alter genes by causing chromosomal damage. Chronic exposure is associated with sensitization that can lead to asthma attacks.

In one study school children exposed to formaldehyde became sensitized, and adverse symptoms (headache, nose bleeding, rhinitis, fatigue, cough, dry nasal mucosa, burning eyes) were correlated with formaldehyde concentrations in the classroom.\*

The other chemicals listed in HB3162 also have significant toxicity for children. Oregon Center for Christian Voices urges you to consider their health and safety when you vote on HB 3162.

Andy Harris, MD

[andyharrismd@comcast.net](mailto:andyharrismd@comcast.net)

1720 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., #1603, Portland, OR, 97201

\* Wantke F, Demmer CM, Tappler P, Götz M, Jarisch R. Exposure to gaseous formaldehyde induces IgE-mediated sensitization to formaldehyde in school-children. Clin Exp Allergy. 1996; 26(3):276-80

PO BOX 11567

Portland, Oregon 97211

(503) 222-2072

[www.occv.org](http://www.occv.org)