

Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition

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Written Testimony in Support of HB 3162

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Chair Greenlick and members of the House Committee on Health Care, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Joanne Skirving and I am the Board Chair of Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition.

Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition is an Oregon advocacy organization dedicated to lowering the incidence of breast and other cancers by reducing our exposure to environmental carcinogens. We do this through education, legislative action, and organizing for change on behalf of Oregonians. We have approximately 800 members.

Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition strongly supports HB 3162. Oregonians should not have to worry about our children being exposed to toxic chemicals in products sold legally in Oregon. We cannot rely on manufacturers to voluntarily remove proven toxic chemicals from their products. That's why we need your leadership to help protect children from toxic chemicals. HB 3162 would create a science-based "High Priority Chemicals of Concern for Children's Health" list, task the Oregon Health Authority with tracking and sharing data on these chemicals, require manufacturers to notify the Oregon Health Authority when their children's products contain these chemicals, and require manufacturers to replace these toxic chemicals with alternatives that are proven to be safer.

Chemicals that cause cancer and disrupt hormones are stored in our bodies. Infants and young children are more vulnerable to toxics because they're smaller than adults and their bodies are developing. We have a right to hold the manufacturers of consumer products accountable for using non-toxic materials in the products they sell to Oregonians.

This is a basic Right-to-Know law. If manufacturers do not reveal that their products contain known toxic chemicals, we can't make informed purchasing decisions or even know the risks of the products to children's health.

Be a leader for kids. Support public health over the profits of manufacturers who currently have no accountability for the health impacts of their children's products.

Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition urges you to pass HB 3162. We thank the members of the committee for your consideration.

Joanne Skirving, Board Chair
Kaye Exo, Karen Gritzka, Kathy Royce, Alice Shapiro
Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition