

**Testimony to the Health Care Committee  
on House Bill 3162**

**March 20, 2013**

Esteemed Chair Greenlick and members of the Health Care Committee:

As members of Oregon's health care professional community, we support HB 3162.

Chronic diseases and disabilities including asthma, autism, birth defects, developmental disabilities, diabetes, endometriosis, infertility and Parkinson's disease are causing increased suffering and concern in Oregon, including an economic burden from health care and lost productivity.

Scientific evidence increasingly indicates a relationship between these diseases and conditions and the wide array of chemical substances found in consumer products. These chemicals have become widespread in our air, water soil, food, homes and schools. Infants and children are uniquely vulnerable to exposure. Low-income communities of color often bear a disproportionate burden of health risks from such environmental contamination.

Health providers and health educators can coach individuals to reduce their exposure to chemicals of concern; but because chemical ingredients are not fully disclosed, not enough information is available to understand and address these rising rates of chronic disease and disability. Oregon must better understand where and how people are exposed to toxic chemicals. Oregon must take steps to eliminate those chemicals of greatest concern and replace them with safer alternatives. We support the Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids Act, HB 3162, as an important step in addressing this need.

We support authorizing the Oregon Health authority to create a science-based "High Priority Chemicals of Concern for Children's Health" list, and requiring manufacturers of children's products to disclose the presence of those chemicals when they occur in children's products. We support replacing these harmful chemicals with safer alternatives.

Thank you for considering this testimony.



Laura Jenson, CNM, MPH, MS  
Oregon Health & Science University  
[laurajenson@gmail.com](mailto:laurajenson@gmail.com)



Joseph T Morgan, MD  
Bay Clinic, Coos Bay, OR  
[jmorgan@bayclinic.org](mailto:jmorgan@bayclinic.org)