



www.mymilkies.com

15200 NW Willis Road McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Tel 971.237.9244 helen.mymilkies@gmail.com

Testimony Before the House Health Care Committee on HB 3162

March 20, 2013

**Helen Anderson, RN, CLE
Owner, Chief Operations Officer Milkies LLC**

Chair Greenlick and members of the House Committee on Health Care, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Helen Anderson and I am the co-owner and Chief Operations Officer of Milkies LLC. As an Oregon business owner, a registered nurse, and a mother, I fully support House Bill 3162.

Milkies is a global company based in McMinnville, Oregon, we manufacture patented products for breastfeeding moms. Milkies products are sold throughout Oregon, nationwide and exported to 35 countries. Milkies are also approved by the USDA and are provided by Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) clinics to support breastfeeding in their vulnerable population.

As a registered nurse with a focus on lactation education, I designed Milkies to support families with information and useful products that help mothers reach their breastfeeding goals. My products are trusted by mothers around the globe to be practical, user friendly and safe.

Milkies cares about the safety of the materials that make up our products – everything we make is free of chemicals of concern like BPA and phthalates, and we have done rigorous testing to ensure zero chemical leaching. The impact of testing on our bottom line was small. The testing was simple, required 3 product samples and cost around \$800. The test results do not expire, this is a one-time cost. Our material is FDA approved, however many countries require a higher safety standard. For example, in order to export to Europe, Argentina and Japan we needed to provide our distributors the lab results showing our products did not contain BPA or other toxins. FDA safety standards are simply not high enough and our international sellers required lab test results proving our products do not contain BPA and other toxins.

Babies can be exposed to toxic chemicals through their mother's milk and are especially vulnerable to the hazards of these exposures because they're still developing. There's no sense in allowing toxic chemicals in products that babies come into contact with. Infants in other countries are protected from these chemicals, it's time to show the same concern for our children here in Oregon.

I also support HB 3162 because it will make a big difference to small businesses like ours that have invested in developing safer products and avoiding hazardous chemicals. By requiring greater transparency in Oregon's marketplace and holding manufacturers responsible for phasing out hazardous chemicals of concern in products for kids, this legislation will help other manufacturers to be good actors like Milkies.

To protect our kids from unnecessary health hazards, first we need to know if and where toxic chemicals are being used in children's products. HB 3162 establishes a common-sense approach to removing the highest priority chemicals of concern from Oregon's shelves, and allows our health officials to share tools with manufacturers to help them go through the process of evaluating and replacing their use of hazardous chemicals.

HB 3162 is an opportunity for Oregon to continue its strong leadership in taking action to reduce toxics in our everyday lives. This is the time to act to protect the next generation of Oregonians.

I urge you to pass HB 3162 and thank the distinguished members of the committee for your consideration.

Helen Anderson, RN, CLE
Owner, Milkies LLC