



MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Laurie Monnes Anderson
Vice Chair Jeff Kruse
Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

From: Members of Community Health Committee of the Oregon Medical Association
Betsy Boyd-Flynn, OMA Deputy Executive Vice President

Date: February 4, 2014

Re: Support of SB 1569

The Oregon Medical Association supports SB 1569. The bill would require that the Oregon Health Authority create and maintain and make publicly available a list of designated high priority chemicals of concern that are used in children's products. A growing body of evidence shows that the synthetic chemicals found in children's products or containers used to store food and toys have the greatest impact on the health of children and pregnant women. We know from bio-monitoring studies that heavy metals, hormone disruptors and other toxics are present in our bodies. Studies of indoor dust and air find the same toxics in our homes and child care environments. And the people at greatest risk of harm from these exposures are our infants and children as their bodies and brains develop.

OMA supports the creation of an OHA website that will monitor the use of toxic chemicals in children's products and allows public access to this information. We believe this is a step in the right direction towards full disclosure of product components. Disclosing the inclusion of chemicals in various products – especially those intended for use by children – allows parents and consumers to make more informed choices about the products they buy, and creates an incentive for competition among manufacturers to improve their practices.

The OMA has supported past legislative efforts to protect the public and particularly children, from harmful chemicals in consumer products. The OMA has previously supported legislation to ban the use of Bisphenol A (BPA) in children's products and BPA is one of the chemicals that will be included on this high priority chemical priority list. Products that contain chemicals like BPA, even in small doses, are known to cause chronic disease, cancer, infertility and learning disabilities. Oregon should not stand by and accept this burden on our health and especially on the health of our children - it is our responsibility to address the chemicals we know to be of great concern and work on solutions so that these chemicals are no longer a threat to any child.