



Children First for Oregon

Speaking Up for Kids Since 1991

To: Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee
From: Regan Gray, Children First for Oregon
Date: February 4th, 2014
Re: SB 1569

Chair Monnes Anderson, Members of the Committee:

I am Regan Gray, representing Children First for Oregon. Children First's mission is to make Oregon a place where all children are healthy and safe and have the support needed to thrive. We believe that all children deserve to be safe from the harm of toxic chemicals in the environment, and that's why I'm here to testify in support of SB 1569.

Children are our most vulnerable citizens to toxic chemicals, but current laws don't adequately protect them. SB 1569 is an important step in guaranteeing the health of kids in Oregon. The Toxics Disclosures for Healthy Kids Act establishes an efficient system to identify high priority chemicals when they exist in children's products sold in Oregon, and to phase out these harmful chemicals and replace them with safer alternatives.

Currently, chemical ingredients are not fully disclosed to consumers or health officials. The initial list of high priority chemicals of concern for children's health covers 19 chemicals. Lack of data on exposure is widely accepted as a barrier to toxic chemicals risk assessment. At Children First we understand that good data is the foundation for good public policy. SB 1569 will give Oregon agencies the authority to collect data to improve our understanding in order to make better public health decisions and keep children healthy and safe.

We want to ensure that every child in Oregon has the opportunity to develop into a healthy and happy adult, able to give back to the state of Oregon. SB 1569 helps us get there; please support this bill.

Thank you.