



The Oregon League of Conservation Voters *STRONGLY SUPPORTS* SB 1569

For decades, the Oregon League of Conservation Voters has supported legislation that protects Oregonians from harmful chemicals. In these years, new and mounting evidence has come forward demonstrating the clear connection between the chemicals we incidentally encounter every day and public health issues of all kinds. That evidence has made one stark fact clear: kids are among the most vulnerable when it comes to exposure to harmful chemicals

SB 1569, as drafted, would do two things: one, it requires disclosure of 19 different chemicals if they are present in children's products – products like toys, baby bottles, and sippy cups. Two, it sets up a process for phasing out those chemicals in the products most likely to be put in the mouths or on the skin of children. This would be model legislation for other states – taking what Washington state already does and adding an Oregon twist, all for the benefit of our children. A nearly identical passed the Oregon House last year with a bipartisan 39-21 vote.

However, we understand that the Legislature may be more willing to accept a replica of Washington's program instead. Washington's bill passed into law with broad, bipartisan support in 2008 and their system has been up and running there for nearly 2 years. Their program requires disclosure-only of 66 chemicals specifically linked to children's health concerns. It also allows for groups, including industry, to use a petition system to add or remove chemicals from the list. Best of all for businesses, a close relationship between Washington's Department of Ecology and our own Oregon Health Authority will mean that they can do the exact same reporting for both states.

While we strongly support the original bill, we think that a Washington model certainly does far more to protect Oregon kids than the status quo. We know that our members – and the vast majority of Oregonians – want to see better protections for kids from known carcinogens and other chemicals that effect health. We know that our kids cannot afford to wait for the federal government to act, given recent gridlock and an EPA that admits our outdated federal chemical laws do not do enough to protect children's health.

The Oregon League of Conservation Voters encourages your support of SB 1569, either in its original form or as amended to match Washington's program.

*Testimony submitted by Christy Splitt, External Affairs Director.
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