



**Testimony in Support of SB 1569 A**

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

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Co-Chairs Bates and Nathanson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1569 A.

The Oregon Nurses Association supports this bill, and supported the previous version that included the phase-out provision. ONA believes that Oregon consumers and families deserve to know when a product they are considering purchasing contains a chemical of concern.

The Oregon Nurses Association is proud to represent over 13,000 Oregon Nurses. Oregon Nurses make up the largest segment of Oregon's health care work force, and work in nearly every health care setting imaginable, including large hospitals, small local clinics, corrections facilities, school-based health centers and in community-based public health.

In many practice settings, nurses care for vulnerable patients. They care for pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children. These are all populations where exposure to hazardous chemicals is especially concerning.

Many chemicals in children's products and toys can lead to serious health effects, including early puberty, heart disease, certain cancers and reproductive disorders. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 133 million people in the U.S.—almost half of all Americans—are now living with chronic diseases and conditions, which account for 70 percent of deaths and 75 percent of U.S. health care costs.

Reducing exposure to chemicals contributing to chronic diseases will benefit the health of the American public as well as our national and state health care systems.

As a matter of public health, the state should act to ensure that no Oregonian unknowingly purchases a product for their child or family that contains hazardous chemicals. This legislation allows consumers to make informed choices about their family's purchases.

This bill is an important step toward reducing exposure to toxic chemicals and improving the health of all Oregonians. Long-term, this bill will help ensure Oregonians have one less thing to worry about.

ONA urges your support of SB 1569 A.