



MEMORANDUM

To: Co-Chair Alan Bates
Co-Chair Nancy Nathanson
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Human Services

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

Date: February 27, 2014

Re: Support of SB 1569-A

The Oregon Medical Association supports SB 1569-A. The bill would require that the Oregon Health Authority create and maintain a publicly available 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 currently found in children's products or containers used to store food and toys significantly impact the health of children and pregnant women. Bio-monitoring studies have found traces of heavy metals, hormone disruptors and other toxics present in our bodies. Studies of indoor dust and air have found the same toxins to be present in our homes, schools, and childcare environments. While adults and children are likely to be exposed to these toxins on a daily basis, we know that these toxins have the greatest impact on the developing body and brains of our children.

OMA supports the creation of an OHA website that will publicly monitor the use of toxic chemicals in children's products.. We believe this is a step in the right direction towards full disclosure of product components and with the Senate amendments the process is less onerous on the companies who manufacture and use these chemicals in Oregon products. If disclosing the inclusion of chemicals in children's products allows parents and consumers to make informed choices about the products they buy, and incentivizes 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; 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.