

Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 4, 2014

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee:

We, the undersigned health care systems, know that exposure to toxic chemicals has real consequences for the health of Oregonians. Our doctors treat toddlers poisoned from ingesting lead-laced paint flakes: even a little lead can make children slower learners and lead to other permanent health effects. Emergency room staff see more patients suffering asthma attacks when pollution in the air is elevated. And we are alarmed by the increasing incidence of certain cancers, neurodegenerative disorders, and asthma. Genetics cannot explain the dramatic increases in prevalence over such a short time. Environmental factors—including toxic chemicals—contribute to these trends.

Current federal and state laws do not adequately protect human health from toxic chemicals. As health care institutions, we are financially burdened by this lack of oversight. We therefore support public policies to address the shortcomings of the toxic chemicals management system.

One immediate policy fix that can be adopted at the state level is in front of you—the Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids Act. This bill would require manufacturers of children’s products to disclose whether their products contain certain chemicals of concern and take steps to phase out dangerous chemicals in certain products.

This targeted bill addresses the most vulnerable age group, children, whose delicate developmental processes are easily disrupted. For example, if cells in the developing brain are harmed by exposure to mercury, lead, or solvents—or if important nerve connections fail to form—the child will likely suffer permanent and irreversible neurobehavioral dysfunction.

The patients we serve—and all Oregonians—would benefit from public policies to reduce exposure to harmful chemicals. Many health impacts and associated health care costs could be reduced. Please support the Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids Act.

Dr. Joe Robertson
President
Oregon Health and Science University



Jim Diegel
CEO
St. Charles Medical Center



Ken Provencher
President and CEO
PacificSource Health Plans



Robin Richardson
Senior Vice-President
Moda Health



Dave Underriner
Chief executive
Providence Health & Services – Oregon



Everett W. Newcomb III, DO
Chief Operating Officer
Legacy Health



Endorsements for SB 1569 Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids Act

Oregon Businesses:

- Alima Pure: Natural Cosmetics (SE Portland)
- Bambu, LLC (NW Portland)
- Brew Dr. Kombucha (SE Portland)
- Earth Mama Angel Baby: Pregnancy, Postpartum and Breastfeeding Products (Clackamas)
- Eco Tots Children's Boutique (Grants Pass)
- Engaging Press/Engaging Every Student LLC (NE Portland)
- Finnegan's Toys and Gifts (SW Portland)
- gDiapers (NE Portland)
- Milagros Boutique (NE Portland)
- Milkies LLC: Happy Moms, Healthy Babies (McMinnville)
- Papa Don's Toys (Walton)
- Polliwog: Natural, Handmade Children's Toys and Clothes (NE Portland)
- Staples, Inc.
- Townshend's Tea Company (NE Portland)
- Yolo Colorhouse (NE Portland)
- Wee Can Too: Baby and Toddler Art Supplies (Eugene)

Labor:

- AFSCME Oregon
- Service Employees International Union
- Oregon Education Association

Faith:

- Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns
- Oregon Center for Christian Voices

Tribes & Communities of Color:

- Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber
- Oregon Latino Health Coalition
- Oregon League of Minority Voters

Health:

- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific
- Coalition of Community Health Clinics
- Coalition of Local Health Officials
- Josiah Hill III Clinic
- Kaiser Permanente
- Legacy Health
- Moda Health
- Northwest Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine
- Oregon Health & Science University
- Oregon Medical Association
- Oregon Nurses Association
- Oregon Pediatric Society
- Oregon Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Association
- Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Oregon Public Health Association
- Oregon Public Health Institute
- Oregon School-based Health Care Network
- Pacific Source Health Plans
- Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon
- Providence Health & Services
- Rachel's Friends Breast Cancer Coalition
- Upstream Public Health

Environment:

- Beyond Toxics
- Cascadia Green Building Council
- Coalition for a Livable Future
- Oregon Environmental Council
- Oregon League of Conservation Voters
- Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter
- Zero Waste Alliance

Other:

- Family Forward Oregon
- Metro
- The Mother PAC
- Multnomah County