

Good afternoon Senator Edwards, Vice Chair Senator Olson, and Senator members Dembrow, Prozanski, and Thomsen.

My name is Josie Cannistra. I am an eighth grader at Sunnyside Environmental School in Portland. I am one of five other students from my school who have collected 161 signatures from children at our school in support of Senate Bill 478, the Toxic Free Kids Act.

We learned about this bill from a mom of a kindergartener who is concerned about the effects of toxic chemicals in children's toys and brought it to the attention of our principle. She passed it on to our cohort leaders and teachers.

After reading more about the issue of chemicals in baby and child products and upon hearing that chemical ingredients are used in toys such as pacifiers, balls, and other plastic products, it raised our concern about it more. Their small bodies have not built up strong systems to help them stay healthy. These chemicals just hurt them more.

Children and infants are more affected by exposure to toxic chemicals than adults. When children are exposed to these chemicals at a young age, they may suffer illness later in life. Some of these toxic chemicals have been linked to cancer, infertility and obesity. Examples of these chemicals in children's products include formaldehyde and arsenic in children's clothes. Formaldehyde and arsenic are both chemicals linked to cancer.

In the United States, our healthcare system is burdened by childhood health problems linked to toxic chemical exposures. The costs of lead poisoning, asthma, cancer, and developmental disabilities alone add up to more than \$54 billion.

A lot of the chemical safety levels are based off of thirty or thirty-five year old men and women. Then these chemicals are put into children and babies. They start in shampoos and clothes, and absorb through skin. Children are uniquely vulnerable to chemicals. I believe in protecting kids' health. Mine, my sibling's, and all other children. I know that kids are harmed by the chemicals in the products they use, and they should know too.

"Parents and kids deserve a chance to make good choices to be healthy. We have choices about how much to exercise, what we eat, how often we brush our teeth. But if we don't know that the products we use have dangerous chemicals in them, we can't make better choices for

ourselves. Oregon should make it possible for all kids and parents to make healthy choices."