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Testimony Before the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee on SB 478

March 2, 2015

**Helen Anderson, RN, CLE
Founder and product designer - Milkies LLC**

Members of the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Helen Anderson, and I am the founder and product designer at Milkies LLC. As an Oregon business owner, a registered nurse, and a mother, I fully support Senate Bill 478.

Milkies is a global company started McMinnville, Oregon. We manufacture patented products for breastfeeding moms. Milkies products are sold throughout Oregon, nationwide and exported to 35 countries. Milkies are also approved by the USDA and are provided by Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) clinics to support breastfeeding in their vulnerable population.

As a registered nurse with a focus on lactation education, I designed Milkies to support families with information and useful products that help mothers reach their breastfeeding goals. My products are trusted by mothers around the globe to be practical, user friendly and safe.

Milkies cares about the safety of the materials that make up our products. Everything we make is free of chemicals of concern like BPA and phthalates, and we have done rigorous testing to ensure zero chemical leaching. The impact of testing on our bottom line was small – it was simple, required three product samples, and cost around \$800. Furthermore, the test results do not expire, so testing is a one-time cost.

Our material is FDA-approved; however many countries require a higher safety standard. For example, in order to export to Europe, Argentina and Japan, we needed to provide our distributors the lab results showing our products did not contain BPA or other toxic chemicals. FDA safety standards are simply not high enough, and our international sellers required lab test results proving our products do not contain BPA and other toxins.

Babies can be exposed to toxic chemicals through their mother's milk and are especially vulnerable to the hazards of these exposures because they're still developing. There's no sense in allowing toxic chemicals in products that babies come into contact with. Infants in other countries are protected from these chemicals; it's time to show the same concern for our children here in Oregon.

I also support SB 478 because it will make a big difference to small businesses like ours that have invested in developing safer products and avoiding hazardous chemicals. By requiring greater transparency in Oregon's marketplace and holding manufacturers responsible for phasing out hazardous chemicals of concern in products for kids, this legislation will help other manufacturers to be good actors like Milkies.

SB 478 is an opportunity for Oregon to continue its strong leadership to protect human health by reducing exposures to toxic chemicals in our everyday lives. This is the time to act to protect the next generation of Oregonians.

I urge you to pass SB 478 and thank the distinguished members of the committee for your consideration.

Helen Anderson, RN, CLE
Founder and product designer, Milkies LLC