

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 478

Dr. Laurel Standley, June 9, 2015

I am testifying in favor of Senate Bill 478. As a scientist with several decades of experience studying the fate and effects of toxic chemicals, I am deeply concerned that these are still present in childrens' products in the State of Oregon. There is substantial evidence linking them to neurological, reproductive and respiratory diseases in children who have been exposed to them.¹

In addition to this Bill's goal of protecting the health of Oregon's kids, I ask that you also take into account the importance of economic impacts of toxic chemical exposures as you consider whether this Bill is a good investment for Oregon.

There are both societal and personal costs related to toxic chemicals. For example:

- A recent study estimated that these exposures cost Europeans ~\$200 billion each year.²
- For reproductive toxins, there are the high costs of future treatment for infertility.
- For respiratory toxins, exposed children are more likely to get asthma, causing them to miss school.
- For neurotoxins, costs include loss of future earnings and higher societal costs to support impaired individuals.
 - o It has been estimated that millions of IQ points have been lost in the U.S., as well as increased ADHD and autism spectrum disorder because of these toxins.^{3,4}
 - o And there are indications that neurotoxic damage to children's brains may lead to reduced impulse control and other behavioral aspects related to criminal activity.⁵

Senate Bill 478 is not only critical for protecting the health of Oregon's children, it is also a very wise economic investment for our State.

I appreciate your time.

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References:

¹For health issues, see Toxicant and Disease Database of Collaborative on Health and Environment.

²Trasande, L., et al. (2015). "Estimating Burden and Disease Costs of Exposure to Endocrine-Disrupting Chemicals in the European Union." *J. Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*, 100:1245-1255.

³Bellinger, D.C. (2012). "A Strategy for Comparing the Contributions of Environmental Chemicals and Other Risk Factors to Neurodevelopment of Children." *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 120:501-507.

⁴Grandjean and Landrigan (2014). "Neurobehavioural effects of developmental toxicity." *The Lancet Neurology*, 13:330-338.

⁵Wright, J.P. (2008). "Association of Prenatal and Childhood Blood Lead Concentrations with Criminal Arrests in Early Adulthood." *PLOS Med*, 5:e101.