

## *REALITY CHECK: Vote YES on SB 478 for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Health Science*

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Do Federal laws effectively regulate hazardous chemicals in consumer products? NO.

- In 2005, the Government Accountability Office found that the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act is not working to protect human health. All federal efforts to reform the law have failed. SB 478 provides for preemption of the Federal government does act.

Do Federal laws ensure that children's products are safe for children's health? NO.

- Washington state's disclosure law has revealed that more than five thousand children's products contain carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, developmental and reproductive toxics.
- Low levels of hazardous chemicals in individual products may contribute to cumulative, chronic and synergistic exposure from multiple products during a child's developmentally vulnerable periods, which can raise the risk of life-long health harm.

Will all manufacturers have to report chemicals under SB 478? NO.

- The bill does not apply to food packaging or food, the pulp & paper industry, medications or vaccines. It does not apply to retailers (unless they manufacture children's products under their own label or import products directly, following Washington's existing program), or small manufacturers with annual worldwide gross sales of less than \$5 million per year.
- The bill does not apply to manufacturers who use safer chemicals. Only companies that use toxic materials in their products, processes or supply chain are required to report.
- Only products designed for or marketed to children under 12 are impacted by this bill.

Have stakeholders had a chance to review SB 478? YES.

- Since first introduced in 2012, the bill has incorporated amendments from small businesses, global manufacturers, pediatric environmental health scientists and experienced chemical regulators. More than 80 Oregon health, labor, business and citizen groups endorse the bill.

Is it practical and feasible for manufacturers to phase out hazardous chemicals? YES.

- Only products that are mouthable, applied to the skin, or for children under 3 are subject to phase-out.
- Manufacturers can rely on industry associations and other resources to identify myriad alternatives to hazardous chemicals that are already available and in widespread use.
- Phase-out waivers are available if there are no alternatives, proven lack of potential exposure, or if contaminants are controlled under a company's "Manufacturing Control Program."

Can Oregon afford this program? YES.

- The Health Authority will be able to reduce costs and streamline implementation by ensuring that data reporting and management systems are consistent with laws in Washington and other states.
- Manufacturers are not required to test products. To comply with the law, they must know what chemicals they and their suppliers intentionally use in the manufacturing process or add to products.

Will SB 478 actually protect kids and reduce exposures? YES.

- History shows that regulation of chemicals in consumer products leads to reduced exposure, reduced body burden and improved health outcomes. The phase out of the heavy metal lead is one example.

**SB 478 is smart policy that protects public health AND works for businesses.**

For more information contact Angela Crowley-Koch

From the Desk of  
Senator Chris Edwards