

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 836

April 5, 2017

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jessica Siegel. As an Oregonian, a mom, and a businesswoman, I am here to speak in opposition to Senate Bill 836.

My family and I care about a healthy lifestyle. I learned quite early on about eating healthy and organic, and we try to buy products from companies that align with our health and environmental values.

Over the years, we've become wary of companies claiming that their products are safe. Despite our best efforts as parents, we've learned that sometimes we've used products on ourselves and our children that contained harmful ingredients. It's become increasingly difficult to trust that any products are safe.

This lack of trust is what drew me to follow the important policy steps Oregon is taking to protect my children from toxic chemicals in products. I was beyond proud of our state when we passed the Toxic Free Kids Act in 2015. And I am deeply concerned by the ways that SB 836 would damage important parts of a law designed to protect children's health.

In addition to being a mom, I am also an Independent Consultant and business owner with a safer skin care company called Beautycounter. Beautycounter is a rapidly growing business dedicated to making safer, high-performing products. As a certified Benefit Corporation, we deliver on our mission through public education, offering safer products for the whole family, and by advocating for more health protective laws.

Our market in Oregon is rapidly growing. I earn income for my family by providing safer products, including those for children and babies, to Oregon families.

I started this important work because I was drawn to a company that puts people's health as a top priority. My work is validated knowing my kids get to see their mom working for something she believes in. My husband is more relaxed, not carrying the whole financial responsibility of this family. I am a part of meaningful social change while building a highly successful business. I am proud that I help people make healthier choices for themselves and their families.

Parents across the state were thrilled when Oregon passed the Toxic Free Kids Act. As an independent business owner and concerned parent, I oppose the

damaging rollbacks of the Toxic Free Kids Act included in SB 836 for the following reasons:

- Eliminating protections created by the Toxic Free Kids Act would make it harder for parents to trust the safety of ingredients used in children's products in Oregon
- SB 836 would waste taxpayer dollars. The Oregon Health Authority has spent considerable amount of time working with stakeholders on the rulemaking process and evaluating the best available science. This bill would force our health agency to waste time and valuable resources discrediting the "alternative facts" presented by the chemical industry
- SB 836 brings us backward, rather than forward. As an Oregonian, we expect that our legislators will stand up for protecting people and particularly the most vulnerable among us. Do not dismantle a law designed to help protect our children and their health

There is overwhelming support from parents across the state, and companies like Beautycounter, for protecting the Toxic Free Kids Act and program.

Thank you for your time and leadership, and for your consideration of my perspective on such an important topic.