

**From:** [Bronwyn Baz](#)  
**To:** [HHC Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Climate change has negative impacts on child health  
**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2020 1:43:56 PM

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Dear House Committee on Health Care,

As a pediatrician and a mother of a child with asthma, I have personally seen the negative impact of climate change on children's health over the last few years.

I specialize in pediatric hospital medicine, where I have seen many more cases of asthma exacerbations requiring hospitalization, with increasing air pollution—especially severe in times of local wildfires—making the struggle to breathe severe enough that many children require admission for around-the-clock breathing treatments and intensive care.

According to the American Lung Association, children face greater risks from pollution worsened by climate change than adults. Their lungs and their bodies' defenses are still developing, and they breathe more air per pound than adults. Because they often spend more time outdoors, kids also breathe more polluted air than adults do for their size. In addition, children may be harmed by warmer temperatures and are at greater risk from the impact of emergency weather events and natural disasters, among other threats such as infectious disease. The newest threat to patients with compromised lung function—novel Coronavirus—likely adds to these risks.

In summary, the negative impact on both public health and the Oregon economy are potentially staggering, given that even if parents stay well, they must often miss work to stay home with their sick children. Please do all you can to pass legislation that protects Oregonians—and my patients and family—against the massive ill effects of climate change wherever possible.

Thank you,

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