

February 22, 2021

Chair Pam Marsh and Committee Members  
House Committee on Energy and Environment

RE: HB 2495 (Toxic Free Kids Act)

Dear Chair Pam Marsh and Committee Members:

As a parent, a pastor, and a concerned citizen who has long cared about public health, I urge you to support HB 2495. The Toxic Free Kids Act offers helpful updates to keep Oregon's children protected from the developmental harms of toxic products.

Across this state and across political differences, we all care about our kids. Caregivers should be able to trust the products they give to their children, and with this legislation, you can help. I support a precautionary approach to avoiding potential harm, not waiting for kids to be hurt before we act.

Since the first Toxic Free Kids Act Program was enacted seven years ago, thousands of reports have been filed disclosing substances that are known to cause harm, like arsenic, lead, and formaldehyde in children's products. Now, we have the chance to strengthen this program, allowing us to regulate more chemicals, including regulating classes of chemicals, and aligning some of our law with Washington's law to make reporting easier for manufacturers.

I urge you to pass HB 2495. Thank you for your work protecting all Oregonians, especially our youngest residents.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Audrey Zunkel deCoursey