

**DEB PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR/SENADORA ESTATAL
DISTRICT 10/DISTRITO 10**



OREGON STATE SENATE/SENADO DEL ESTADO DE OREGON

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Bobby Levy and Emerson Levy, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

I write to you today in support of HB 3043, which would strengthen Oregon's ability to protect children from toxic chemicals.

In 2015, the Oregon Legislature passed legislation requiring manufacturers of children's products to disclose harmful chemicals in their products. Since then, reports have indicated the presence of numerous toxic chemicals in a wide range of children's toys, clothing, and other products. Many of the compounds that have been identified in children's products are associated with serious health impacts. For example, phthalates, which are often found in children's toys, are linked to asthma, hormonal disruption, obesity, and cardiovascular disease. Children's clothes also commonly contain flame retardants, which are associated with developmental impediments, increased cancer risk, and weakened immune systems.

Children are much more vulnerable than adults to negative health impacts from toxic exposure. Infants and toddlers are especially at risk because they frequently place toys and other objects in their mouths. Therefore, this new information about the prevalence of toxic compounds in children's products points to a need for greater protections to ensure the health of children in Oregon.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) regulates chemicals of concern for children's health under the 2015 Toxic-Free Kids Act. However, OHA is currently restricted to regulating chemicals individually and may only designate five new chemicals every three years for regulation. HB 3043 would modernize OHA's regulatory authority by allowing OHA to regulate entire classes of harmful chemicals and removing the restriction on designating chemicals of concern. These are necessary steps to protect Oregon's children from exposure to harmful chemicals.

I urge the committee to move this bill forward.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deb Patterson".

Deb Patterson