

**Testimony Submitted by  
Chris Coughlin, Policy Director  
Oregon Consumer Justice  
To the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment**

January 25, 2023

Regarding: Support for HB 3043

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Levy, Vice-Chair Levy, and Members of the Committee,

I write to you today on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice in support of HB 3043.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) advances a justice movement to ensure Oregonians have the freedom to thrive and equitably share in our abundance of resources. For too long, flawed systems and economic policies that favor profits over people have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing the greatest harm. Strengthened through responsive and reciprocal community relationships, OCJ organizes, advocates, and litigates to put people first. We envision an inclusive future where financial and business transactions can be relied upon as safe and where all Oregonians know and have recourse to exercise their consumer rights.

Parents want what is best for their children. They should not worry that the toy or clothing they buy for their children will cause them harm. Children's products should be safe and free of toxic chemicals that can result in short and long-term health impacts. In a marketplace where new chemicals are continually being introduced, information about product safety needs to be transparent and accessible to consumers.

Exposure to toxics can cause the following in children::

- Slowed development

- Weakened immune system
- Hormonal disruption
- Learning impediments
- Developmental disabilities

HB 3043 expands the Toxic-Free Kids Act to reduce exposure to toxic chemicals in children's products and to increase what information is included in reports so the information is more accessible to consumers.

By focusing on major manufacturers supplying products to chain stores, HB 3043 will help make mainstream products safer. Parents should not have to purchase expensive products at specialty stores in order to access safe products for their children.

A provision of HB 3043's requires reporting of brand names and product models to inform consumer's buying decisions by providing more accessible and helpful information.

Given limited federal regulation of children's toys and products and the significant harmful impact exposure to toxic chemicals has on children, Oregon needs to take action now.

We urge you to support HB 3043.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to Oregon's communities.