

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee,

We write in support of **HB 3043, the Toxic Free Modernization Act.**

Beyond Toxics is an Oregon nonprofit and has served Oregonians since 2001. We envision a society where everyone has equitable access to healthy food and clean air and water, and underserved communities are included in decision making processes that affect them. This extends to environmental health threats and the hazardous substances contained in our children's toys, clothing, blankets, furniture, and products.

The 2015 Toxic Free Kids Act required the reporting and ultimate phaseout of high priority chemicals in all children's products. HB 3043 makes the current law more transparent and consumer friendly. For example, it improves reporting by requiring brand and model to be reported for chemicals (ex. Mattel "Malibu Barbie" as opposed to "Mattel doll"). This makes the reporting database easier for parents and consumers to understand what high priority chemical is in which toy, and helps them make informed purchasing decisions.

The Toxics Free Kids Act has safeguards benefiting communities of color and low-income families. People, especially those from underserved communities should not have to be expert chemists to avoid endocrine and developmental disruptors like phthalates, flame retardants, and bisphenols.

More importantly, the Toxic Free Kids Act levels out the playing field. Not all families are able to shop in specialty toy stores like Posh Baby, SpielWerk Toys and The Elephant's Trunk. By allowing for chemical classes to be regulated, and limiting the exemptions granted for hazardous chemicals to three years, HB 3043 furthers the goal of making mainstream products safer. Everyday products sold in chain stores will be safer without requiring families to pay a premium at speciality stores.

We urge a yes vote on HB 3043, The Toxics Free Kids Act. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director

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