



Jan 25, 2023

TO: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
FR: Jesse Lawrence-Weilmann, Campaign Associate, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG)
RE: HB 3043 - Expanding the Toxic-Free Kids Act

OSPIRG is a statewide, citizen-based organization representing thousands of Oregonians.

OSPIRG supports HB 3043, which would strengthen and modernize the 2015 Toxic Free Kids Act (TFKA). HB 3043 would bring the original act up to date with more recent scientific developments and empower OHA to take appropriate action to protect Oregon's children.

Protecting our children from hazardous chemicals is critically important. Children are far more vulnerable to toxics than adults and exposure can have serious, lasting impacts on their health and development. According to the EPA, more than 1,500 new chemicals are introduced to the market annually and more than 80,000 chemicals are already on the market in the United States.¹² The long term health impacts of the vast majority of these chemicals are still being studied, or are simply unknown. To protect us and our children, health agencies must be able to respond to the latest science as it emerges.

The TFKA was a necessary first step, but it must be strengthened so that OHA can adequately do its job and protect our children. **OHA is currently limited to listing just five new chemicals for regulation every three years.** Meanwhile, since 2015 OHA has received over 4,000 new reports on chemicals of concern used in kids' products.³ **HB 3043 will enable OHA to keep pace with the rapidly evolving market and the latest scientific evidence by removing the impractical limit on the number of chemicals it can regulate.**

Another issue addressed by this bill is phase-out exemptions. The TFKA allowed phase-out exemptions for banned chemicals with no time limit. While these exemptions are necessary and practical, allowing their indefinite extension is not. HB 3043 would put a reasonable 3 year time limit on those exemptions.

In view of these needed improvements to an important law, OSPIRG strongly supports this bill as a necessary step towards protecting the long-term health and wellbeing of Oregon's children. We urge you to join us in supporting HB 3043.

¹[Comparison of U.S. and Recently Enacted European Union Approaches to Protect against the Risks of Toxic Chemicals](#), United States Government Accountability Office, August 2007

²[Science Matters Articles related to Safer Chemicals Research](#), Environmental Protection Agency, updated August 2022

³[High Priority Chemicals Data System](#), Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse