

**COURTNEY NERON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 26



## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Testimony in Support of HB 3043**

January 27, 2023

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment,

Thank you for reading my testimony in support of HB 3043, the Toxic Free Kids Modernization Act. I am a teacher, legislator, mother, and an everyday Oregonian who cares about what is in our kid's consumer products and what ultimately ends up in our environment and landfills.

I want to thank my co-chief sponsors and regular sponsors who have signed on in support of the bill. In my view, HB 3043 is unfinished business from the 2021 long session, and is the result of collaborative bipartisan work with our colleague Representative Mark Owens, collaboration with Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and impacted manufacturers. HB 2495 from 2021 passed the House 47-8, and I hope it will see similar support this time around.

It has now been 8 years since the Toxic Free Kids Act Program was 1st established- requiring the reporting and ultimate phaseout of the worst chemicals in kid's products. Since then, over 4,000 reports have been filed, disclosing things like arsenic, lead, and formaldehyde in kid's products. And since then, we've learned some ways the existing program can be made even more successful:

1. We need to give OHA the authority to regulate classes of chemicals (ie. PFAS). It's in everyone's mutual interest to ensure safer alternatives are recognized, and that we don't replace one bad chemical with another similarly bad one. Our bill maintains the individual chemical approach but also adds the ability to regulate by class as needed. And we allow manufacturers to exempt individual chemicals in a class if they are shown to not be as harmful as the rest of the class.
2. Our bill also removes the limit on the number of chemicals that can be regulated, which is currently limited to 5 chemicals every 3 years that can be added. Because of this, we have grown out of alignment with Washington State, with whom we share lab and enforcement capabilities.

3. Manufacturers were required to phase out high priority chemicals by 2022 unless OHA grants them an exemption. Our bill will ensure that these exemptions aren't granted into perpetuity- but rather limited to 3yrs, to account for and encourage green innovation and safer alternatives.
4. We make the reporting friendlier to consumers by requiring brand names and models to be reported for chemicals- ex) Mattel Barbie. So that they can make more educated buying choices.
5. And we streamline definitions and reporting dates with WA, so that it is easier for manufacturers to comply with multiple states regulations

HB 3043 thus builds on critical work done in previous sessions by streamlining and strengthening the existing program in common-sense and business-friendly ways.

**And in doing so, we protect the health of our kids from health impacts linked to toxic chemicals.** I urge my colleagues on the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee to pass HB 3043.

Thank you,

Rep Courtney Neron

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.