

April 12, 2023
**(Submitted for April 20, 2023 Hearing Date: Senate Energy and Environment
Committee)**

IN SUPPORT OF HB 3043 (Toxic Free Kids Modernization Act)

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley and members of the committee–

My name is Philip Wu, and I am a retired pediatrician from Kaiser Permanente, a father of one now adult daughter, and a grandfather of two teenage boys. I'm speaking to you all today as a community member in support of HB 3043.

I have been a pediatrician since 1979. My first professional years were in the US Army Medical Corps, and the next fifteen years were in private practice in Medford before joining Kaiser here in Portland. I'm old enough to remember the early days of lead exposure and poisoning from leaded gasoline, house paint and contaminated soil. Now, of course, we screen routinely for lead in the first year of life for any age thereafter especially if we're evaluating developmental delay, learning or behavior problems. It certainly was a routine part of my pediatric practice.

The beauty of science is that we know more about the intricacies of the human body AND all of the toxic chemicals that can damage it. We now have a category of endocrine disruptors–Phthalates, PBAs, PFAs and others that can impact and weaken the immune system and affect intellectual development. These disruptors either inhibit the production of a normal hormone, or block or mimic a normal hormone. Our young people are exposed to these and other toxins through our air, water, soil, food and everyday consumer products.

Let me reiterate: Children are immature physically and neurologically; so the impact of toxic exposure is especially significant. Preventing and screening for such exposures are important preventive health strategies.

This is why it is important for us to consider class-based regulations, and to give our health agency the flexibility it needs to decide how many, and which chemicals or chemical classes should be regulated based on science. We should streamline data reporting and cross-agency collaboration as much as possible. HB 3043 does that.

Thank you.

Phillip Wu
Retired Kaiser Pediatrician