

**Testimony Submitted by
Megan Quintrell, Advocacy Cohort Lead
Oregon Consumer Justice
To the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment**

May 4, 2023

Regarding: Support for HB 3043

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Megan Quintrell, I am the Advocacy Cohort Lead with Oregon Consumer Justice and I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of OCJ today in support of HB 3043.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) organizes, advocates, and supports litigation to advance a justice movement that puts people first, ensuring all 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 most significant harm. Strengthened through responsive and reciprocal community relationships, OCJ is building a 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 child 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 requires reporting of brand names and product models to inform consumers' buying decisions by providing more accessible and helpful information.

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 specialty products in order to avoid toxic chemicals.

And to my earlier point about responsive and reciprocal community and business relationships, while we are disappointed that some business and trade groups continue to oppose this bill, we are glad that advocates could come to an agreement with other big manufacturers like Nike for a policy based on science, that all parties can live with.

Given limited federal regulation of children's toys and products and the significant harmful impacts that 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.

Megan Quintrell
Advocacy Cohort Lead
Oregon Consumer Justice