

May 4, 2023

On behalf of the government entities, small business, medical professionals, businesses, and undersigned organizations representing thousands of members, we would like to express our support for HB 3043, the Toxic Free Kids Act Modernization bill.

Thousands of chemicals lurk in products our kids use every day, and children are far more vulnerable to toxic chemicals than adults. And parents should not have to be expert chemists or have to shop in specialty stores in order to obtain safer products. In 2015, a bipartisan Oregon Legislature in the absence of strong federal protections, voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Toxic Free Kids Act (TFKA), requiring manufacturers of children's products to disclose—and eventually phase out the worst chemicals in kid's products. And in 2021, a Bipartisan House overwhelmingly passed HB 3043 (then HB 2495), 48-7. This current House passed HB 3043, 42-14.

We've made great progress, but our kids need us to do more. HB 3043 builds on the success of Oregon's 2015 Toxic Free Kids Act by strengthening protections for children's health and streamlining business reporting requirements. A modernized Toxic Free Kids Act will:

- Modernize OHA's ability to regulate classes of chemicals instead of regulating them one-by-one (but not mandated). This will prevent harmful chemicals from being phased out, only to be replaced with similar and equally harmful ones. The bill still gives manufacturers a way to continue using an individual or subclass of chemical that may not be as harmful as the rest of its class.
- Remove limits on designating high priority chemicals of concern for children's health. Currently, OHA is limited to adding five chemicals for regulation every three years. According to the EPA, more than 1,500 new chemicals are introduced into commerce each year. And currently, we are out of alignment with Washington.
- Make it easier for consumers to avoid products containing toxics by adding brand name and model to reporting requirements.
- Streamline manufacturer reporting requirements and reduce program costs by reporting dates with Washington. It makes reporting easier for companies.

We recognize that safer and healthier products are better for the environment, human health, and generally good business practice. This bill has also been engaged in a heavy, open, Bipartisan process with manufacturers, and has gone through significant changes to address their concerns. **We urge your support and vote on HB 3043.**



Beyond Toxics



Breast Cancer
Prevention Partners



Campaign for Safe
Cosmetics



Defend Our Health



Environment Oregon



Healthy Babies Bright Futures



League Of Women Voters



Metro



Naturepedic



Nurturely



OEC



Oregon League of Conservation Voters



Oregon Consumer Justice



Oregon Food Bank



Oregon Nurses Association



Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility



Oregon Public Health Association



OSPIRG



Our Children Oregon



Washington County Kids



We Can Do Better



WILLAMETTE PARTNERSHIP



Women's Voices for the Earth

