

TO: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
FROM: Sammi Teo, Public Policy Advocate
RE: Support for HB 3043 to protect children's health
DATE: January 25, 2023



Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Bobby Levy and Emerson Levy, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

Oregon Food Bank's mission is to eliminate hunger and its root causes. We pursue this goal in two key ways: we foster community connections to help people access nutritious food today; and we build community power to dismantle systems and policies that drive hunger and poverty. Through systemic change and meaningful policies, we have the opportunity to rebuild and emerge stronger so that we can end hunger for good in our communities. This is our moment to embrace our shared values, care for each other and take bold action in support of *all* Oregonians.

Oregon Food Bank strongly supports HB 3043, the Toxic Free Modernization Act.

Ensuring each child grows up in a healthy environment is critical to building an Oregon where all of us can thrive. When people's health is impacted by exposure to toxic chemicals, there are health and economic impacts that exacerbate food insecurity. Many children's products in particular have numerous toxic chemicals that are linked to serious health impacts. Children in lower-income neighborhoods are also disproportionately exposed to more environmental pollution and toxics in air, water, and household products, which widens disparities.

In 2015, a bipartisan Oregon Legislature stepped up and voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Toxic Free Kids Act (TFKA), requiring manufacturers of children's products to disclose—and eventually phase out—some of the worst chemicals in kid's products. We've made great progress, but our kids need us to do more.

Since 2015, more than 4,000 reports have been filed with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) on chemicals of concern used in kids' products — including arsenic, phthalates, and formaldehyde. We need stronger protections for our kids. This is why we need to pass the Toxic Free Modernization Act, which will modernize the Toxic Free Kids Act and protect children from dangerous chemicals.

Please vote 'Yes' on HB 3043. Thank you very much.

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