

**Testimony to the House Energy & Environment Committee  
on House Bill 3043**

**January 25, 2023**

**Jamie Pang, Environmental Health Program Director  
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Good afternoon Chair Marsh and Committee Members:

My name is Jamie Pang and I am the Environmental Health Program Director at Oregon Environmental Council. I am speaking in support of HB 3043 today but also want to note that over 2 dozen organizations, businesses, and government entities have endorsed this bill.

Eight years ago, OEC advocated for the Bipartisan Toxic Free Kids Act to require manufacturers of kids' products to disclose harmful chemicals and ultimately *phase them out* or replace them with safe alternatives.

The bill was standard-setting for its time, and we have learned a lot since 2015, when the Toxic Free Kids Act was first passed. For example, studies have only reiterated that our toxic exposures cumulate from air, water, building materials, and our consumer products. It is estimated that new chemical compounds are produced at a rate [of 10 million per year](#). Children, lower income, and health-vulnerable people are more susceptible to these environmental threats.

In fact, a 2022 national study found that [81%](#) of Dollar Store products tested contained chemicals of concern for children. For example, PVC (vinyl chloride), which is associated with brain, liver, and tissue cancer, was found in multiple toys. Families shouldn't have to shop at expensive speciality stores to avoid toxic toys- or be chemists to know what ingredient is in every product. For us, this is an issue of equity.

HB 3043 allows for the regulation of chemical classes but is also flexible enough to allow manufacturers to continue using a specific chemical in a class (ie. PFAS), if it is shown to not have the same hazards. Thus, the policy would remove more harmful substances in kid's products while allowing for market changes based on scientific developments. Lastly, HB 3043 makes reporting more consumer friendly- by requiring brand name and product model to be reported, so that families can make more informed buying decisions. The bill is therefore equitable to both businesses and consumers.

I urge you to support HB 3043. Thank you.

Jamie Pang  
Environmental Health Program Director  
Oregon Environmental Council  
[JamieP@OEOnline.org](mailto:JamieP@OEOnline.org)