



May 4, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Emerson Hamlin, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for HB 3043 A

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3043A on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). ONA is a nurses union and professional association representing over 16,000 health care workers and providers, including registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, and allied health workers. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, home health, and county health departments across Oregon.

We support HB 3043A because kids suffer serious consequences when they are exposed to toxic chemicals, including slowed development, weaker immune systems, and hormonal disruptions. Furthermore, these chemicals are everywhere: flame-retardant chemicals, which are frequently used in blankets and pajamas, can impact liver and thyroid function, as well as disrupt endocrine systems. I also urge you to remember that not all kids are equally likely to experience these health impacts: kids from lower-income neighborhoods are more frequently exposed to environmental pollution and toxics in household products. This is not only a health issue, but one of equity.

As nurses, our members believe that every Oregonian deserves to be healthy. Protecting kids from hazardous chemicals introduced into products, and encouraging manufacturers to utilize the safest available options, helps to ensure that all children can live long, healthy lives. That is why HB 3043A removes the chemical limits currently in place from the 2015 law and allows (but does not mandate) classes of chemicals to be regulated. This brings Oregon in alignment with our partner state, Washington. ONA urges a yes vote on HB 3043 A. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emerson Hamlin