

Submitter: Virginia Feldman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: HB3043

Respected legislators: I'm Dr. Virginia Feldman. As a Portland pediatrician, in practice for > 40 years, I urge the committee to pass out HB 3043. Public Health measures such as this can make much more an impact on my patients' health than a lot of what I do in my clinic & hospital—some of which I never see: such as the liver cancers that develop from PFAS (poly-fluoroalkyl substances) After my child patients turn into adults. Only you in the legislature can help us in the clinics! As happy as I was with the 2015 Toxic Free Kids Act, Oregon needs to overcome its limitations: which I see as, 1st: it only allowed a certain number of chemicals to be added to the danger list—when many hundreds of new chemicals are added to kids' products every year. 2nd: HB3043 would add the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences—based on research-- that establishing a class-based system makes any regulation system easier to use, and safer for consumers. So many times a single chemical from a list has been eliminated, but a related halogen chemical is substituted which equal—or more dangerous: remember the substitution of the related, but more toxic chemical for the TRIS flame retardant in kids PJs. (This is why the suggestion made before my testimony, that modifying the Bill to work with subclasses, won't be safe. A simple substitution from a halogen class was more toxic). And by publishing brand names & models, 3043 greatly helps parents, who can never keep up with all the separate chemicals in each separate toy. Many of my parents can't negotiate scientific web sites, particularly working parents whose time & attentions are limited. 3043 gives our health agency the flexibility it needs to decide how many, and which chemicals-- and their classes should be regulated based on Up-to-date science. And 3043 wisely streamlines data reporting, and cross-agency collaboration—including with other states, like our neighbor Washington, or Vermont which has worked on similar protection for years.

Thank you for your past & present efforts to keep my patients even safer.

Dr. Virginia Feldman