

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the committee–

My name is Meagan Golec, and I live in Saint Johns, in North Portland. I am the mother of a 9 year old boy and I am here today to testify in support of HB 3043, the Toxic Free Kids Modernization Act.

Children are the most vulnerable to the effects of toxics and also the most important members of our society– and our society’s future. As an eco-conscious and socially aware shopper, I want to give my son the best of everything, but I don’t necessarily know how. There are thousands of potentially toxic chemicals in kid’s products today- with more entering the market each and every year. My child used to put everything in his mouth- and I remember always being worried about what additives might be in the things I gave him.

Laws like the Toxic Free Kids Act are critical in ensuring that manufacturers both disclose high priority chemicals in their kid’s products, and ultimately phase them out. Parents should not have to shop at expensive specialty stores to avoid toxic chemicals, but rather, the playing field should be leveled by requiring all manufacturers to avoid them to begin with. Specifically, having a public state database that discloses the brand name and model would be really helpful to me and my friends– so that we can know if a toxic chemical is in a particular toy. This is something HB 3043 calls for.

As someone not entrenched in this lawmaking process, the impression I get is that corporations are always going to want to water down regulations that impact their bottom line. (So I am not surprised at the opposition I heard today). But I believe that companies should harness the energy they spend fighting consumer protections to instead advance cleaner and greener technologies.

I therefore urge you to adopt the strongest bill possible that will prioritize the health of my child and his peers and to maximize the phasing out of toxic chemicals from kids toys, clothing, and products.

Thank you for allowing me to speak.

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