

**DEB PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR/SENADORA ESTATAL
DISTRICT 10/DISTRITO 10**



OREGON STATE SENATE/SENADO DEL ESTADO DE OREGON

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name Deb Patterson, and I am the State Senator for District 10, which includes Monmouth, Independence, and South and West Salem. As a chief sponsor of HB 3043, I am writing to you in favor of HB 3043, which would strengthen Oregon's ability to protect children from toxic chemicals.

In 2015, the Oregon Legislature passed legislation requiring manufacturers of children's products to disclose harmful chemicals in their products and ultimately phase them out. As of March of 2021, final rules for this law were finalized, making the law fully implementable and enforceable. The 2015 Toxic Free Kids Act had bipartisan support, and HB 3043 is a bipartisan bill that addresses unfinished business from 2021.

Reports required under the Toxic Free Kids Act have indicated the presence of numerous toxic chemicals in a wide range of children's toys, clothing, and other products. Many of the compounds that have been identified in children's products are associated with serious health impacts. For example, phthalates, which are often found in children's toys, are linked to asthma, hormonal disruption, obesity, and cardiovascular disease. Children's clothes also commonly contain flame retardants, which are associated with developmental impediments, increased cancer risk, and weakened immune systems.

Children are much more vulnerable than adults to negative health impacts from toxic exposure. Infants and toddlers are especially at risk because they frequently place toys and other objects in their mouths. Therefore, this new information about the prevalence of toxic compounds in children's products points to a need for greater protections to ensure the health of children in Oregon.

It has become clear that Oregon can do more to protect children's health. For example, OHA is currently restricted to regulating chemicals individually and may only designate five new chemicals every three years for regulation. HB 3043 would modernize OHA's regulatory authority by removing these limits and allowing (but not mandating) OHA to regulate entire classes of harmful chemicals. These are necessary steps to protect Oregon's children from exposure to harmful chemicals and to make our program more efficient.

HB 3043 is the result of years of negotiations between stakeholders. The measure has gone through significant changes to address concerns raised by manufacturers and an agreement has been reached between some manufacturers, like Nike, and proponents of the bill.

HB 3043 is thoughtful, flexible, and has no fiscal impact. But most importantly, it protects children's health. This bill passed on a bipartisan vote in the House of Representatives. I urge the committee to move this bill forward with the -3 amendment and without any further changes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Deb Patterson