

Hello Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the committee—

For the record, my name is Hazel Gastellum-Rivas, and I am 10 years old. I live with my mom, dad, 7-year-old sister Ellery, and our cat, Veggie. I am here to testify in support of HB 3043 for Toxic Free Kids, because I am a kid!

We should be taking all toxic chemicals out of toys and kid's products. While I am lucky that my parents are very careful in what they buy, not everyone's parents are or can be. And people don't know what is in which toys. There's no easy way to find out. And why should yucky stuff be in toys anyway? Toys should be fun. It's hard to have fun if you're worried about toxic chemicals in all your stuff.

As a big sister, I can tell you little kids put A LOT of things in their mouths. When she was little, my sister put everything in her mouth. Her fingers, Duplos, her hair, her coat collar, even her shoe once. And I like to sleep with a stuffed animal, which means close contact.

It isn't fair or safe that toxic chemicals can be put in toys.

It makes me sad that little kids can be harmed just by playing with toys or putting on lotion.

So, I am counting on you adults to figure this out, and to minimize the harmful stuff that right now can be put in kids' clothes, toys, jewelry and furniture. So please, please, PLEASE adopt the strongest bill you can.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and for caring about kids and our health.