

PROTECT OUR KIDS' HEALTH

EXPAND THE TOXIC FREE KIDS ACT TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO TOXIC CHEMICALS IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS

**VOTE YES ON
HB 3043**

THE PROBLEM

There is very little federal regulation of children's toys and products.

Thousands of chemicals lurk in products our kids use every day, and children are far more vulnerable to toxics than adults. In 2015, a bipartisan Oregon Legislature stepped up, in the absence of strong federal protections, and voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Toxic Free Kids Act (TFKA), requiring manufacturers of children's products to disclose—and eventually phase out—some of the worst chemicals in kid's products.

We've made great progress, but our kids need us to do more.

Since 2015, more than **4,000 new reports** have been filed with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) on chemicals of concern used in kids' products — including arsenic, phthalates, and formaldehyde.



With so many new chemicals, and more being introduced all the time, we need stronger protections for our kids.

HEALTH IMPACTS FOR KIDS

Exposure to toxics can cause:

- Slowed development
- Weakened immune system
- Hormonal disruption
- Learning impediments
- Developmental disabilities

Kids in lower-income neighborhoods are also disproportionately exposed to more environmental pollution and toxics in air, water, and household products.

Examples:

- Flame retardants such as HCDB are common in kid's blankets, pajamas, and furniture sets. Flame retardants can impact liver and thyroid function and the endocrine system.
- Phthalates are plasticizers that make things softer and more flexible. They can be found in kids' toys, rattles and teethers, and can cause endocrine disruption, cancer, and developmental issues.

HOW OREGON'S CURRENT TOXIC FREE KIDS ACT WORKS

The Toxic Free Kids Act protects our children from toxic chemicals by:

- Creating a science-based list of chemicals of concern for children's health in Oregon. There are currently 73 chemicals listed.
- Mandating that manufacturers file reports with OHA if their children's products contain a listed chemical of concern. These reports are publicly available for consumers.
- Ultimately requiring children's toy manufacturers to remove high priority chemicals from their products or use safer alternatives (unless an exemption is granted).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Jamie Pang
Oregon Environmental Council
Environmental Health Program Director
jamiep@oeonline.org | 971-353-7963

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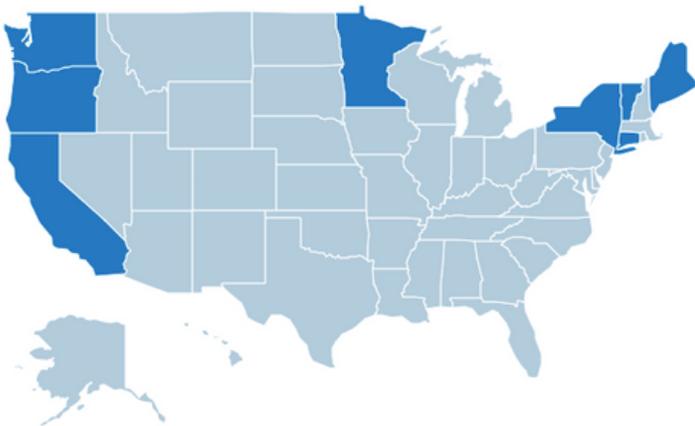
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LC 0644 builds on the success of Oregon's Toxic Free Kids Act by strengthening protections for children's health and streamlining business reporting requirements.

AN MODERNIZED TOXIC FREE KIDS ACT WILL:

- **Modernize OHA's ability to regulate classes of chemicals** instead of regulating chemicals one-by-one. This will prevent harmful chemicals from being phased out, only to be replaced with closely related and equally harmful ones.
- **Remove limits on designating high priority chemicals of concern for children's health.** Currently, OHA is limited to adding five chemicals for regulation every three years. According to the EPA, more than 1,500 new chemicals are introduced into commerce each year.
- **Limit exemptions** granted to manufacturers to 3 years, rather than in perpetuity. New products are developed every year, and materials updates can and should be made when safer alternatives are available.
- Make it **easier for consumers to avoid products containing toxics** by adding brand name and model to reporting requirements.
- Streamline manufacturer reporting requirements and **reduce program costs** by aligning definitions and data management systems with Washington.

A NATIONAL MOVEMENT



Oregon is part of a growing movement to pass comprehensive legislation that protects our kids from toxic chemicals often found in products they interact with every day. At least 7 other states have passed similar laws since 2015.

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Do your part to protect kids from harmful chemicals.

Vote **YES** on **HB 3043** to strengthen the Toxic Free Kids Act!