



Oregon Public Health Association

Working together to make health happen

OPHA Action Alert

Support the Toxic Free Kids Act, SB 478

OPHA has endorsed [SB 478](#), which would require manufacturers to notify health officials when children's products (like toys, jewelry and car seats) sold in Oregon contain chemicals of concern and to replace harmful chemicals with safer alternatives.

The public health community is concerned that chemicals known to be carcinogens and hormone disruptors are found in children's products. Strategic intervention to reduce young children's exposure to toxic chemicals can protect children from such health harms as learning disabilities, asthma, cancer, and a variety of chronic diseases.

We can't risk any more delays. In 2013, a similar toxics bill had enough votes to pass but languished in committee. The same thing happened in 2014: enormous public support, bipartisan sponsors, but no time allotted for a vote.

Our best chance to hold our lawmakers accountable and to bring this bill to the Senate and House chambers is to make sure they know that toxics policy is a high priority for the public, across the state, and among a variety of Oregonians, including members of OPHA.

Join OPHA in urging Oregon lawmakers to act now to protect children's health. Please contact your state senator and representative. Here are some talking points:

Toxics are in our homes and our bodies

- We know from hundreds of studies that chemicals known to be carcinogens and hormone disruptors are found in products that we use everyday.
- These toxic chemicals include formaldehyde in fabric, bisphenol A in plastics, phthalates in personal care products, and more.
- Health problems such as cancer, learning disabilities and chronic diseases including asthma, diabetes, infertility, and Parkinson's disease have all been tied to toxic chemicals in everyday products.
- Because of their small size and still developing bodies, infants and children are at greatest risk of lasting harm from exposure. Even small amounts of chemicals can affect a child's developing brain and body. By tracking products that children touch, put in their mouths and inhale, we investigate the greatest potential for direct exposure.
- The yearly cost of just four childhood health problems linked to chemical exposures in the U.S. — lead poisoning, asthma, cancer, and developmental disabilities — is more than \$54 billion.
- Reducing exposures to harmful chemicals is essential to ensuring the health and safety of our communities.

Oregon needs the authority to track, evaluate and reduce sources of toxic exposure

- Federal laws are not protecting our children from toxics.

- Currently, chemical ingredients are not fully disclosed to consumers or health officials. To understand and address rising rates of disease, public health experts need to know where and how people are exposed to these toxic chemicals.
- An investment in early intervention to reduce risk factors—including eliminating unnecessary exposures to toxic chemicals in children’s toys—is a big investment in preventative health and reducing the growing burden of chronic disease.
- We want our communities to be protected from preventable health problems, particularly those that affect children and fetuses, who are more vulnerable to toxic exposures.
- This is about our health and the health of our children.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Take action today!

[Click here](#) to send your legislator a letter urging them to support SB 478.

Sponsors: Senators Edwards, Gelser & Steiner Hayward; Representatives Gomberg, Johnson & Keny-Guyer

Learn more about our policy committee and advocacy through OPHA [HERE](#).

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