



Oregon Public Health Association

Working together to make health happen

ACTION ALERT

Toxic Free Kids Act, SB 478

Urge Oregon lawmakers to act now to protect children's health

OPHA is one of more than 80 groups in Oregon endorsing [SB 478](#), which would require manufacturers to disclose, and then phase out, chemicals in their products made for children that are carcinogenic, cause reproductive or developmental effects, or are otherwise a significant hazard to children's health.

For four years, this critical public health bill has garnered enormous public support and bipartisan cosponsorship. In 2013, it passed the House before stalling in Senate committee. Unless our legislators act quickly, we risk shelving the bill for the fifth year in a row.

The bill is now in the Ways & Means Committee. If they act quickly, there's still a chance that it could get a vote in both the Senate and House before the end of the month. Our best chance to hold our lawmakers accountable and to bring this bill to a vote is to make sure our legislators know that toxics policy is a high priority for members of OPHA.

Join OPHA in urging Oregon lawmakers to act now to protect children's health. Please contact your State Senator and Representative.

[Click here](#) to use the Action Alert system provided by Oregon Environmental Council.

Writing or calling as a member of OPHA is the most powerful way to make a difference. Please call today. Here are some talking points:

Biomonitoring studies of people and laboratory tests on household dust make it clear that children are exposed to a variety of hazardous chemicals that occur in household products.

Data from Washington State reveals that more than five thousand children's products now on the shelves contain dozens of chemicals well established to be hazardous to a child's growing brain and body.

- 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.

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