

# Protect Our Kids' Health: Vote YES on HB 2495

*Modernizing the Toxic Free Kids Act to reduce exposure to toxic chemicals in children's products*

In 2015, the Oregon Legislature voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Toxic Free Kids Act (TFKA), requiring manufacturers of children's products to disclose — and eventually phase out — toxic chemicals. **Thousands of chemicals lurk in products our kids use every day**, and children are far more vulnerable to toxics than adults.

**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.

**The approach is business friendly.** TFKA gives manufacturers time to phase out toxic chemicals and allows them to seek exemptions when they can prove that there is no potential for exposure from their products.



**HB 2495 builds on the success of Oregon's Toxic Free Kids Act by strengthening protections for children's health and streamlining business reporting requirements. This update to the existing legislation 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 materials.
- **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 three 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 parents 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 and other states.

## 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 disproportionately exposed to environmental pollution and toxic chemicals in products

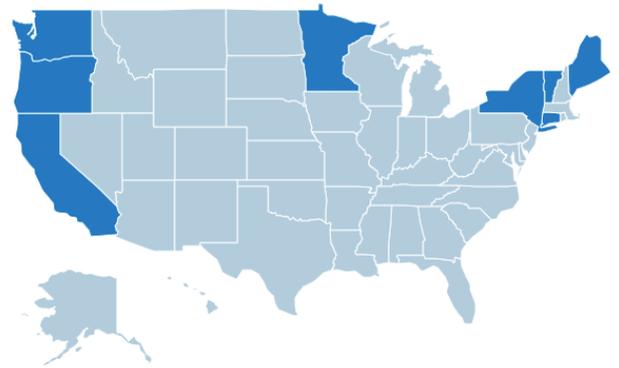


### How Oregon's Current Law Works

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 68 toxic chemicals listed.
- Mandating that manufacturers file reports with Oregon Health Authority if their children's products contain a listed chemical of concern. These reports are publicly available for consumers.
- Requiring the eventual phase out of toxic chemicals, or substituting them with safer alternatives.
- Starting in 2022, requiring children's toy manufacturers to remove toxic chemicals from their products or use safer alternatives (unless an exemption is granted).

### Paving the Way for National Impact



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 seven other states have passed similar laws since 2015.

**Do your part to protect kids from harmful chemicals.  
Vote YES on HB 2495 to strengthen the Toxic Free Kids Act.**

#### For more information, contact:

**Jamie Pang South**

Environmental Health Director  
JamieP@oeconline.org  
971-353-7963 (d)

**Morgan Gratz-Weiser**

Legislative Director  
MorganG@oeconline.org  
707-672-2618 (c)

#### About Oregon Environmental Council

Founded in 1968 by concerned Oregonians across the state, Oregon Environmental Council is a membership-based, nonpartisan nonprofit. Oregon Environmental Council brings Oregonians from across the political spectrum together to protect our water, air and land with healthy solutions that work for today and for future generations.

To learn more, visit [www.oeconline.org](http://www.oeconline.org).