

MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP

Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk

*****This form is a public record*****

MEETING DATE: October 27th, 2011

SUBJECT: Proposed Ban on Bisphenol A

AGENDA NUMBER OR TOPIC: R4

FOR: X AGAINST: THE ABOVE AGENDA ITEM

NAME: Jenny E Pompilio MD, MPH

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY attached

I will submit my public testimony in person

IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

1. Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk.
2. Address the County Commissioners from the presenter table microphones. Please limit your comments to **3 minutes**.
3. State your name for the official record.
4. If written documentation is presented, please furnish one copy to the Board Clerk.

IF YOU WISH TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE BOARD:

1. Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk.
2. Written testimony will be entered into the official record.

Good morning, my name is Jenny Pompilio. I am a doctor and mother of a 5 year old boy. I want to briefly discuss bisphenol A exposure levels in different groups; why children are inherently at risk from hormone disrupting chemicals like BPA; and give personal reflections as a physician and mother trying to protect my five year old son from this toxic chemical.

Bisphenol A (BPA) is a hormone-disrupting chemical. Over 200 studies have linked it to early puberty, obesity, reproductive problems and low sperm counts, heart disease, breast cancer, diabetes, and liver abnormalities. Bisphenol A is linked to changes in infants' developing nervous systems, changes in their behavioral development, and changes in development of their prostate glands. A 2005 report from the Center for Disease Control's reported BPA in the urine of more than 90% of the 2,527 participants aged 6 years and older. In the summary, the CDC states that "General population exposure to BPA may occur through ingestion of foods in contact with BPA-containing materials." This same data found higher BPA levels in women, young children, and persons with household incomes less than \$45,000/year.

As a practicing physician I am concerned that BPA exposures are contributing to the rising levels of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers, thyroid problems, and behavioral disorders that I see every day in my practice. The American Medical Association, the National Institutes of Health, the American Endocrine Society, and the Food and Drug Administration have all expressed serious concerns about BPA and urged pregnant women, infants and children to limit contact with the chemical.

The proposed county action is a reasonable and principled first step, and one we must take to protect our most vulnerable communities. This is a health equity issue as well. Poorer families in cities often rely on smaller stores that studies show are the least likely to carry BPA free necessities like infant formula and baby bottles.

Having laws in place to prevent the use of BPA in baby bottles and other food containers marketed primarily for young children would protect consumers. As a citizen and mother, I should be able to go into ANY store in Multnomah County to purchase a children's baby or water bottle and KNOW that the contents will not leach BPA. All families, no matter their income level, should have the access to safe products for their families. Without policies like this, there is no reliable way for consumers to be sure that a product is BPA-free.

After years of reviewing the literature and trying to purchase BPA free products to protect my family, I believe that the County has an obligation to protect its citizens, and my patients from this toxic chemical.

Please take responsible action and pass this proposed action to protect human health in Multnomah County.

Thank you for your time.