

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: R-4

FOR: X AGAINST: _____ THE ABOVE AGENDA ITEM

NAME: Stacy Michaelson

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CITY/STATE/ZIP: Portland, OR 97293

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY (In lieu of attendance)

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.



Children First for Oregon

Speaking Up for Kids Since 1991

To: Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
From: Stacy Michaelson, Children First for Oregon
Date: October 27, 2011
Re: Ban on Bisphenol-A

Chair Cogen and Commissioners:

I am Stacy Michaelson, Policy Associate for Children First for Oregon. Children First's mission is to make Oregon a place where all children are healthy and safe and have the support needed to thrive. We believe that all children deserve a healthy start in life, and that's why I'm here to testify in support of a BPA ban in Multnomah County.

The proposed ban is an important step in guaranteeing the health of children in our area. More than 200 scientific studies have linked very low doses of BPA to prostate and breast cancer, obesity, altered brain development, cardiac disease, diabetes, and early puberty. Because children's bodies are growing and developing, they are more vulnerable to the effects of toxic chemicals than adults. Even small amounts of a chemical can impact a child's ability to reach his or her full potential.

Children are our most vulnerable citizens to toxic chemicals, but current laws don't adequately protect them. Current safety regulations for beverage containers designed for kids inadequately address the presence of chemicals linked to harmful health and developmental impacts for children. Further, this is a health equity issue as low-income families in urban areas are often more reliant upon stores that studies show are least likely to carry BPA-free infant formula or baby bottles. When alternatives to BPA are available, feasible, and already in use by manufacturers, making the decision to eliminate harmful products for the safety of all children should be a simple one.

Currently, there's little or no government oversight of toxic chemicals in consumer products, especially children's products. The proposed BPA ban will help protect kids by correcting the current regulatory loopholes. We want to ensure that every child in Multnomah County has the opportunity to develop into a healthy and happy adult, able to give back to our community. This ban is an important step in that direction; please vote to keep our kids healthy.

Thank you.