

March 21, 2008

Dear Governor Gregoire,
Re: Children's Safe Product Act HB2647

The health and safety of those we care for, and our Puget Sound environment are top priorities for the Washington State Nurses Association. The Children's Safe Product Act HB2647 was identified as a legislative priority for the Washington State Nurses Association during our 2008 legislative caucus, because we support legislation that protects the health of children and supports the rights of parents and grandparents to choose safe toys and products for their children.

WSNA asks you to sign HB2647 as it was passed by the legislature, and we ask that you do not veto any portion of this critical bill. To veto section 4 and/or section 5 will prevent a Washingtonian's right to know what chemicals are of high concern for a child's health and normal development. Toy industries will continue to use toxic chemicals in their kid's toys and other products without this component. The Department of Ecology must be able to create a list of high priority chemicals of concern for children, identify children's products that contain these chemicals, and then report to the Legislature. Additionally, Section 5 requires manufacturers to notify Ecology if their kid's products contain a high priority chemical of concern. Again, both sections are critical in protecting a child's health and right to normal development by providing parents and grandparent's vital information in choosing safe products for their children. Many of the larger toy industries are saying that this bill will prevent toys from being purchased and made in Washington State. This is not true. There are many toy manufacturers that already produce safe toys, both in Washington State and in the US, and to address industry concerns, these sections of the bill will require a rule-making process, where industry concerns could be addressed.

According to a recent article that explored the economic costs of diseases attributable to environmental contaminants in Washington State, \$1.9 billion dollars is the annual cost of (5) top childhood diseases; lead exposure, asthma, cancer, birth defects and neurobehavioral disorders, that are attributable to environmental exposures(2005, Davis). Washington State can become the national leader in protecting a child's right to a healthy future by signing this bill in its entirety into law. This will not only reduce costs associated with childhood disease and allow children the potential to be healthy; it will also stimulate the business market by encouraging industry to implement safer alternatives for their products and production process.

WSNA urges you to sign the Children's Safe Products Act as passed by the Legislature.

Respectfully,

Karen Bowman