TEDX

Public Hearing Testimony:
So, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to you today. I am here on behalf of The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, also known as TEDX. We are an internationally recognized nonprofit organization that publishes peer-reviewed papers on endocrine disrupting chemicals and the associated health effects. I'm excited to recently join TEDX as a Senior Scientist after completing my post-doctoral fellowship at the National Toxicology Program at the National Institutes of Health, where I studied these and other chemicals for the last five years. Prior to that I have received my doctorate from the University of Missouri, where I studied the effects of developmental exposure to Bisphenol A and other xenoestrogens. So, as environmental health scientists we strongly support the addition of these 21 chemicals to the Chemicals of High Concern for Children list. It is often far too difficult for consumers, environmentalists, or environmental health scientists, and policymakers to estimate potential exposures to chemicals because of the lack of transparency about chemicals used in everyday consumer products. The CHCC List addresses this data need directly.

Endocrine disrupting chemicals are chemicals or mixtures that are made outside of the body that interfere with any aspect of hormone action. In other words, they can block, mimic, or otherwise disrupt normal hormone signals. And because of the rapid growth and developmental changes that occur early in life, children are particularly susceptible to the potentially damaging effects of exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals. It is imperative that we take measures to prevent unnecessary exposure to children to endocrine disrupting chemicals. In order to do this, however, we must first understand where and how children are exposed. So, requiring chemical disclosure as per the CHCC List helps us to do just that.

Of the proposed 21 new chemicals to the CHCC list, at least nine have evidence of endocrine disrupting activity. As such, determining the potential for exposure from children's products should be considered high priority. We will provide additional information regarding the endocrine disrupting activity of these nine chemicals in our written testimony.

So further, we would like to strongly suggest that Ecology reconsider its proposal to delist Octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, also known as D4. The evidence and the published literature overwhelmingly suggest that D4 is an endocrine disrupting chemical. While the recent report from Lee and colleagues in 2015 reported that D4 did not induce the uterotrophic response, the same authors noted other estrogenic affects. Furthermore, it is important that the fate of D4 on the CHCC List not be predicated on a single finding of a negative result in a single assay. We see no reason to disregard existing data by other scientists that evaluated D4 across species, strains, and routes of exposure, and that indicates that D4 is not only estrogenic by measurement in the uterotrophic assay, as well as additional in vivo and in vitro assays, but may also be weakly anti-estrogenic as well.

I will close by saying thank you again for this opportunity today. We commend the Department of Ecology and the state of Washington for their leadership in requiring chemical disclosure in children's products, and we look forward to submitting additional petitions for chemicals to be added to this reporting list in the future.