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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CANNON AND CLEM INTRODUCE
BIPARTISAN BILL TO PROTECT OREGON KIDS FROM BPA

Representatives Brian Clem (D-Salem) and Ben Cannon (D-Portland) today introduced HB 3689 on the House floor, a replica of SB 695.

Yesterday, a discharge petition to bring SB 695 to the House Floor for a vote failed to garner the necessary 31 signatures. That bill passed the Senate 20-9 before being blocked in the House of Representatives. Both bills would protect children from toxic chemicals by banning the sale in Oregon of all baby bottles, sippy cups and reusable water bottles that contain bisphenol-A (BPA).

Rep. Clem, who did not sign the discharge petition, said “a bill this important to the health of Oregon’s infants and toddlers ought not to come to the floor via procedural maneuver. Instead, it ought to come out of committee without any controversy. This bipartisan bill offers us that chance.”

HB 3689 is co-sponsored by 3 other legislators who opted not to sign the discharge: Representatives Vicki Berger (R-Salem), Greg Smith (R-Heppner), and Greg Matthews (D-Gresham). Representative Debbie Boone (D-Cannon Beach) also signed on as a bill sponsor. Other legislators are expected to sign onto the new bill throughout the day.

“This important bill deserves a vote by the full House and I am glad to be joined by colleagues on both sides of the aisle who agree,” said Rep. Cannon. “Similar bills have passed in 9 states with strong, bipartisan support. In fact, 1355 legislators have voted yes in those states, while only 31 have voted no. This is not a partisan issue.”

BPA is a potentially harmful, estrogen-mimicking chemical commonly used in the production of plastics that has been linked to certain cancers, diabetes, reproductive disorders, and other health problems. In 2010 the FDA announced that “recent studies provide reason for some concern about the potential effect of BPA on the brain, behavior, and prostate gland of fetuses, infants and children.”

“It is unacceptable to have any Oregon kids exposed to a chemical that numerous studies have deemed questionable at best, especially when they are at their most vulnerable,” said Rep. Clem.

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