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**Testimony on HB 3364
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For Integrated Pest Control**

**WHO IS PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN, VULNERABLE CITIZENS,
WORKERS AND THE ELDERLY FROM
TOXIC HERBICIDES AND PESTICIDES?**

What's Wrong with This Picture?

1. Driving to the beach. Meeting a spray truck that was traveling towards Salem on Highway 22. A mile or so down the road a family had pulled off the road and spread a blanket on the freshly sprayed roadside.
2. High school kids running track on rural road near the high school, some kids got very ill not knowing the road had been sprayed a couple days earlier.
3. A big farm "boom" spraying a grassy play area at a grade school in Silverton during school hours. Will the children be playing on that field? Not for several days was the reply.

I told this principal and mother of two adopted small children "don't be surprised to see me standing outside with a petition to get the pesticides out of the schools." She replied "I'm concerned about the cancer risk myself."

A year or so later she died of a reoccurrence of ovarian cancer. (The school had put in new windows that opened and Roundup had been applied around the trees and planting beds outside her window as well as classroom windows so the chemicals came inside the building.) The whole community mourned her passing. Few may not have known the reason for the reoccurrence but I believe I do.

4. The city park. Baby grandson crawling next to a big tree. Couple days later the signs of Roundup killing the grass.
5. My throat almost swelled shut after someone came in my house after being at the grade school Little League field. I learned the name of the chemical used was "Weedmaster".

Called the Department of Agriculture and asked them to read the label to me. The employee assured me it was most likely okay. Suddenly his voice slowed and he said "this product isn't even allowed to be used in people's yards." It was a *restricted use herbicide*. Silverton, Salem and Mt. Angel schools had been using this product for years. As well as area nursing homes.

The school districts could have been fined but they were let off the hook. Nor were parents whose children were exposed ever told of their children's exposures to this restricted use herbicide.

Other pesticides have taken Weedmaster's place and are used regularly...all harmful to developing bodies, brains and reproductive systems of our children. New information has come out internationally about Roundup in the past month making its' threat even more serious than some thought.

Beautiful weed free lawns, a strip of dead yellow weeds along roadsides and permanently damaged DNA and children, more autism and much more cancer!

A BROADER PERSPECTIVE:

What's wrong with this picture? Plenty!

Babies getting brain cancer.

The fetus and babies at risk of lower I.Q., disabilities, autism.

The world's food supply threatened by genetically modified organisms -- treated with poisons.

Wasted government money spraying weeds that are already dead!
Some farmers spray before the county does. Yet the county always sprays everything, even dead poisoned weeds. Imagine the state does too.

Wasted government money spraying them in the first place when they could be mowed. We know how the weeds look 9 months out of every year. Why poison everyone just to have them look "dead, yellow and ugly" for 3 months of the year.

Spraying chemicals that have not been proven safe to human health.

Threatening the bee population ---our food supply --- with the reckless use of expensive poisons that have never been proven safe.

Harming our water, air, and children and our planet.

Only 200 chemicals out of 80,000 have been tested for safety. Do enough people have to die before they 'MIGHT' take it off the market.

We are just one big human experiment driving those who are made of "egg shells" instead of "stainless steel" into extinction.

Why would we want to hurt ourselves, damaging our children who are our future.

If we don't take care of this earth, then where are we going to live???

