



## **Oregon PTA supports HB 2931 on indoor air quality and radon testing**

Oregon PTA is Oregon's oldest and largest advocacy group for children and youth with a 100+ year history of supporting policies and laws.

### **Decades of understanding radon gas exposure and a step forward**

As early as the 1990s National PTA was part of a coalition of groups working to raise awareness of the health issues associated with a long term exposure to high radon gas levels. Oregon PTA has been involved in the conversation on indoor air quality and radon gas for many years. We greatly appreciate that HB 2931 is a step forward in creating a plan to identify where radon gas may be high in our schools and we believe making a difference in the health of students, teachers, staff and any other people who occupy school rooms with elevated radon gas levels.

### **Appreciation of legislative and education leadership and building consensus**

HB2931 has evolved from years of conversation and legislative work to find a way to improve the way our schools understand radon gas exposure. Oregon PTA has appreciated the leadership of Representative Keny Guyer, Senator Dembrow and the staff of the Oregon School Boards Association, particularly Lori Sattenspiel in helping to convene representatives from school districts, advocates like PTA and experts who have an understanding of the issues of radon gas in our schools and how we might take on the challenge of identifying the high radon exposure spots and developing options to make the exposure safer.

### **Need to test and know the risk, invisible gas requires simple tests**

Oregon PTA believes that the conversation about HB2931 rings the alarm bell on an issue of health and safety in schools. We know that indoor air quality is an issue that has attracted attention in many communities. Radon has been found in schools in a variety of settings. A growing number of parents, teachers and community members expect us to test for radon in classrooms and take action. The nature of radon being odorless and colorless makes testing necessary to know what, if any, radon may exist. Information received when we met to talk about this issue showed the tests were as inexpensive as \$4 when bought in bulk.

**Developing a testing plan is the critical first step.** Districts like Salem and Portland Public Schools have shown how to take on the radon issue. They made reasonable, affordable changes to make schools healthier for everyone in our schools. We look forward to a continued discussion about HB2931 and working with our partners to conduct the tests for radon gas.

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