



## **Statement in support of SB1062 establishing Healthy and Safe Schools Plan and funding professional testing for toxics in Oregon schools**

Oregon PTA has a 100 year history of advocacy for schools, children and family. Our volunteers are in Oregon's schools every day and are intimately familiar with our school buildings. Oregon PTA believes every Oregon student must have a safe and healthy place to learn and succeed. Oregon PTA participated in the prior legislative efforts to assure all schools are healthy and safe.

Oregon PTA joined with our K-12 partners to support the earliest work to test for toxics like radon, lead in water, lead in paint and other toxins which might be present in our schools. PTA appreciates the work of legislators, local school boards, superintendents and their teams to test, detect and respond to toxics in schools. We respect and appreciate the awareness and effective responses the earlier legislation created. The combined efforts mean Oregon schools are safer and better places for all kids and the adults who help them each school day.

**SB1062 is a continuation of those early efforts.** We know that with a better understanding of what, if any, toxics may exist in schools we can better respond to any hazards children and staff might be exposed to in our schools. We believe that coordination of these efforts between local leaders and employees along with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) should lead to a fuller understanding of what, if any, toxic exposure might exist and help grow an awareness and response to any unsafe or unhealthy conditions in our schools which might impact Oregon children and youth or staff who might visit those places. SB1062 helps gather facts and inform communities in a timely way of any issues and lay the groundwork for solutions.

**Oregon PTA does not support unfunded mandates** for our schools and to that end we believe that the provisions of SB1062 which create a **Healthy School Facilities Fund** is critical to assure the testing work is done and that all professional support is available to those tasked with testing and providing clear information to their communities.

We believe that SB 1062 creates a plan to regularly assess the safety and healthy nature of our schools. It brings together the ODE, OHA and local district staff and leaders to assure that Oregon schools are healthy and safe for all Oregon students. Our schools, our kids and community will be healthier as a result.

**Please vote YES on SB1062.**

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