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Environmental Public Health

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May 10, 2017

TO: The Honorable Ginny Burdick, Chair  
Senate Committee on Rules

FROM: Gabriela Goldfarb, Section Manager  
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SUBJECT: Senate Bill 1062, Healthy and Safe Schools Plans

Chair Burdick and members of the committee; my name is Gabriela Goldfarb, and I am the Environmental Public Health Section Manager of the Oregon Health Authority. I'm here to provide testimony on SB 1062, which addresses a variety of environmental health topics in schools.

Students need a healthy environment in order to learn, grow and thrive. SB 1062 works toward creating such an environment by requiring school districts to develop and maintain a Healthy and Safe Schools Plan. This plan incorporates existing and new environmental health regulations into one document and identifies an individual responsible for implementing and maintaining the plan. It increases transparency for families and school staff about environmental hazards that may be present in schools by requiring the plan and any test results to be made available to the school community and the public.

SB 1062 is the result of successful collaboration among the legislative sponsors, the Department of Education, Oregon School Boards Association, local school districts and the Oregon Health Authority. This collaboration resulted in a bill that lays the foundation for practical and achievable improvements that benefit health and learning in Oregon schools.

I'm available as a resource to the committee if there are any questions or concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important topic.