

Dear Senate Education Committee members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Oregon Senate Bills 282 and 283 that are currently before the Senate Committee on Education. These legislative measures are urgently needed to protect our children, teachers and other personnel in our schools; it is the first effort in Oregon to safeguard an entire generation from the potentially devastating health effects from electromagnetic radiation (EMR) emitted by wireless technology (Wifi and Wifi emitting devices).

In the absence of such measures, we are witlessly placing our children in an uncontrolled experiment that could have devastating consequences for an entire generation. The multi-trillion dollar telecom industry vehemently opposes even the slightest whiff of concern when it comes to health effects from the devices and technology they have and continue to make enormous profits from. They have mounted herculean efforts to block simple and clear labeling of the most basic health effect warnings that are buried in the very manuals these devices come with, and stanch any health safety research funding in this area that may better demonstrate their liability and pose a risk to their growth projections. Even the large reinsurance companies have explicitly removed liability insurance for the potential health effects from these devices, shifting the liability squarely on their manufacturers (perhaps this best explains the telecom industry efforts to stifle such safety research and public warnings). I believe that parents should be provided with objective information on the potential health effects of this technology, and make informed decisions about what they are exposing to their developing children.

I currently live in Bend with my wife and three young children, the oldest of which is in the 2nd grade (in the Bend Lapine School District). I have direct experience witnessing the effects on my children, in particular with my oldest child, who has trouble concentrating, can not sit still and has outbursts during such periods of exposure (it will become even worse next year when his whole class are equipped with iPads throughout the school day). Upon removal from such an environment, his behavior normalizes and he can once again regulate himself. For us, these are only the acute symptoms from such exposures, which pale in comparison to the long term health effects from exposure that all of our children in Oregon may one day suffer.

We estimate that the Bend La Pine School District spent at least \$5M for iPads and likely much more for the supporting Wifi infrastructure. The benefits of this technology are dubious at best, and often sound like something the salesperson was trumpeting before landing this contract with our school district. We have brought our concerns to the Superintendent, Shay Mikalson, as well as the school board. I have presented in person, written many letters, and have had medical experts send letters to the superintendent and school board (attached). However, the superintendent and school board refused to further discuss our concerns or implement some simple solutions that would benefit all children and personnel.

Please take the time to do your own research on this topic, tapping into the scant but alarming peer reviewed scientific articles that elucidate the potential human health impacts of EMR exposure. And be sure to follow the money - there are certainly articles available that downplay any negative health effects from this technology, though many of these receive funding from the telecom industry (and thus cannot be deemed reliable or objective on the matter). Be sure to check for any financial ties to this industry from those who provide testimony against these bills, noting that there is a big \$0 in profits to be made on the side of the argument we are putting forth (although the health and safety of our children is far greater than the profits of this industry).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Paul Sheehan
Parent of 3 in the Bend La Pine School District