



MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Andrea Salinas
Members of the House Health Care Committee

From: Courtni Dresser

Date: February 11, 2020

Re: Support of HB 4109

The Oregon Medical Association supports HB 4109 to protect public health. Chlorpyrifos is a toxic nerve agent pesticide commonly used in aerial application of farm crops. Chlorpyrifos is designated as a hazardous pesticide with severe human and environmental health impacts. There is significant peer reviewed science to document the negative impact on neural development in children, babies and fetuses exposed to chlorpyrifos. These types of neural development impacts have lifelong implications, such as decrease in intellectual ability. As physicians, we cannot stand silent while Oregonians suffer.

The OMA serves and supports physicians in their efforts to improve the health of all Oregonians. In this case, the use of chlorpyrifos is both a risk to the public at large and the very industry in which it is used. Agricultural communities are exposed to the pesticide through spraying, drift and accumulation of the pesticide on clothing. The United States Environmental Protection Agency proposed to ban chlorpyrifos in 2015. Hawaii banned the pesticide in 2018 and several other states have taken action to eliminate the sale and use of chlorpyrifos. In addition to the direct public health risk, there is a growing body of evidence that chlorpyrifos is harmful to birds, fish, and other wildlife. The science supports limiting the use of chlorpyrifos.

We urge you to pass HB 4109 to ensure that young children are not exposed to a pesticide with well known and documented adverse effects.

The Oregon Medical Association serves and supports over 8,000 physicians, physician assistants and student members in their efforts to improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.