



STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 25

HB 4109

As a retired public health nurse, I am here to support HB 4109. Chlorpyrifos is a toxic pesticide that has been proven to have negative health impacts.

For pregnant women and children, the adverse effects of chlorpyrifos exposure are very serious. Studies have shown that even small levels are associated with damage to the developing fetus. Children are particularly vulnerable when they are exposed by pesticide drift from fields near their homes, from their parents' clothes and by playing at the edge of the fields.

A 2017 paper reported a statistically significant increased risk for pre-menopausal breast cancer among women who reported using chlorpyrifos. That is consistent with its known effects as an endocrine disrupting chemical.

Prohibiting the application of this pesticide within 300 feet of a school campus is a reasonable request with all the reported adverse effects on children. In East Multnomah County, where I live, there are schools that are surrounded by Christmas tree farms and nurseries.

I do not blame farmers for using the tools that they have, and I don't like taking this away from them. I also recognize they need alternative tools; but at the same time farmworkers don't have any alternatives.

The legislature must step in. Knowing what we know about this pesticide, we can't let continued exposure happen. I am sorry that the Dept of Agriculture and the Oregon Health Authority, who know what is going on, have not already stepped in to protect the public.

I urge an "aye" vote and sending it to the floor of the Senate.