



A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects  
Portland, Oregon  
[www.aiaoregon.org](http://www.aiaoregon.org)

TO: House Committee on Education

FROM: Kim Olson, Legislative Chair  
American Institute of Architects, Oregon Chapter (AIA Oregon)

DATE: January 23, 2023

RE: Support for HB 2257

The American Institute of Architects of Oregon (AIA-Oregon) urges support of HB 2257 which appropriates moneys to address urgent school safety needs.

As architects, we are trained in understanding how important of a role healthy school environments play in the health and academic success of children. Exposure to environmental hazards in schools can negatively impact the health of children and school staff. Unhealthy school environments can also affect attendance, concentration, and performance, as well as lead to expensive, time-consuming cleanup and remediation activities.<sup>i</sup>

As more and more schools fall into disrepair, we routinely see our school clients undergoing capital projects having to choose between basic safety and health infrastructure, growing capacity to support increasing populations, and updated facilities that respond to current technologies and pedagogies. HB 2257 can work to alleviate the strain all capital project budgets are under by making grants available to address some of the most urgent safety needs.

On behalf of more than 1,700 member architects, we believe that this support for school infrastructure is a crucial step forward in remedying the condition of the built environments in which we ask our teacher to teach in, and our students to learn in. We strongly encourage support for HB 2257 and would be pleased to help in any way should you require more details or supporting information.

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<sup>i</sup> Buchanan, B. (2007). Sick buildings, sick students: Poor air quality and other environmental irritants can lead to health concerns for your students and staff. *American School Board Journal*, June, 48–50.