



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 23, 2023

To: **Chair [Dembrow](#), Vice Chair [Weber](#) and Members of the Committee**
[Senate Committee on Education](#)

Email: sed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: **[SB 426](#) – Toxics Free Schools – SUPPORT with amendment**

Senate Bill 426 provides a much-needed update to the original Toxic Free Schools legislation that includes structured plans to help implement the ten-year-old bill's intent. It includes systems that will improve expert and stakeholder oversight of the use of pesticides on school grounds, standardize the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) at Oregon schools, develop even-handed school funding for managing pesticide use, and increase transparency of IPM in schools throughout the state.

In the LWVOR [Pesticides and Other Biocides Study](#) published in Spring of 2021 and the concurrent adopted positions, we affirm that the use of pesticides should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to preserve the public health. We support using adaptive pesticide management focusing on continuing observation of current regulatory practice outcomes, including the ability to rapidly react to new risk assessment data. Scientific advances constantly reveal new information about the health impacts of pesticides, especially in children. We know that there are pesticides currently in use, like the organophosphate chlorpyrifos, that can adversely impact neurological development in children. There is also a large body of data demonstrating that pesticides like glyphosate are endocrine disruptors and likely carcinogenic. Some pesticides like pyrethroids and carbamates impact the normal function of immune cells. Data on the effects of these compounds was not garnered overnight and, in the meantime, their use has had serious consequences.

Protecting our children by establishing strict guidelines requiring practices that emphasize prevention practices and mechanical means of control as the first steps in schools and on school grounds will help avoid children's exposure to pesticides. Funding resources for the modernization of recordkeeping and requiring Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training for pesticide applicators in and around state schools will help prevent unintentional use of dangerous compounds and unintended harm.

The LWVOR urges your Support for SB 426.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula L. Grisafi".

Paula Grisafi
Toxics Portfolio