

Submitter: Robin Bloomgarden
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB426

Testimony in Support of SB 426: Toxic Free Schools

Under the Healthy & Safe Schools Act of 2017, school districts are required to report the presence of lead, asbestos and radon, AND pesticide use, to the Dept of Education on a regular basis. Most schools have been doing a good job on the first three issues, while only 39% of schools have been posting up to date Integrated Pest Management plans on their websites! We must treat pesticides like all other toxic chemicals and air born dangers found in schools!

Even in small amounts children are very susceptible to pesticide exposures! Schools should be a reliable and safe space for children to learn and play, no matter what is happening elsewhere.

Oregon's School Districts have never received adequate funding to implement the requirements needed for the IPM and Safe Schools Act. End this unfunded mandate that has penalized some schools to the tune of thousands of dollars and letters of violation. Schools don't need fines, they need help to set up systems on their websites that use simple and easy to use technology to consistently store pesticide application records and make it easier to properly notify parents, students and teachers of pesticide applications, as required by law.

Parents should not be penalized thousands of dollars to access a paper copy of pesticide application records from their child's school district. This is unfair and unnecessary! Transparency is called for from top to bottom in all state agencies, from now on. Parents pay taxes for these services already.

SB 426 also makes sure that agencies responsible for children's education and health are stakeholders in the decision making process for using pesticides on school grounds. Stakeholders will meet four times per year to guide the direction of school pest and pesticide management issues.

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