



A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

To: Chair Dembrow
Vice-Chair Weber
Members of the Senate Education committee

FR: Catie Theisen, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: SB 414 Support

February 21, 2023

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 workers across Oregon and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. SB 414 is the epitome of cross-sector collaboration and intersection of healthy jobs and healthy communities.

COVID-19 helped show us just how critical infrastructure updates are in keeping our communities safe and healthy. Yet, according to estimates from the US Environmental Protection Agency, nearly 29 million students and adults go to schools that have unhealthy levels of chemicals, mold, airborne pathogens, pollution and more. Deferred maintenance, poor ventilation and inadequate filtration infrastructure can all be significant contributing factors to these issues.

SB 414 will make effective use of federal infrastructure resources to make schools safer for students, teachers and support staff, while also stimulating quality jobs in the community. The bill requires critical safety protections around indoor air quality assessment, in addition to minimum labor standards for the craftspeople doing the work, including family-supporting wages, use of apprenticeships and emphasis on diversifying Oregon's workforce in this area.

We know that this bill offers a significant return on investment in so many ways: lowering operating costs of K-12 buildings, reducing energy consumption, improving students' health and grades and attendance, keeping airborne public health issues more contained, utilizing available federal funding to maximize school and state budgets, keeping education workers and students safe, and investing in good local jobs and our economy at large.

From students thriving, to safer workplaces, to high-road job creation, SB 414 is fundamentally good for our economy both short and long-term – we encourage your support of SB 414.

