

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of SB 426

February 21, 2023

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

For the record, my name is Courtney Neron and I am the State Representative for House District 26.

As a teacher, a mother, and a legislator, I deeply care about what chemicals and pesticides our kids are exposed to throughout their day, whether at home or at school. Before my time in the Legislature I advocated with Non-Toxic Wilsonville for safer alternatives to pesticides in our community school grounds. We discovered a reluctance from our school board to deviate from OSU's recommended "Low-Impact Pesticides" list, as though it were a legally binding document even though it is not. Groundskeepers and school districts want to do the right thing, but unfortunately with flaws in the current system we have too many instances of products being used inappropriately, excessively or even illegally.

I believe this bill will better equip our schools to create integrated pesticide management (IPM) plans that minimize exposure to pesticides that can impact children's health.

IPM plans serve to reduce pesticide exposure and help IPM coordinators and applicators track pest prevention practices used on school grounds. While the legislature has made steps in the right direction to require schools to adopt Integrated Pesticide Management (IPM) plans and improve transparency, we need to modernize our IPM policies to better protect the health of our children and give schools the tools they need to design safe and effective school IPM plans.

Children are more sensitive and are at higher risk to potential toxic effects of pesticides.¹ Many pesticide products include chemicals that are carcinogenic, neurotoxins, and hormone disrupters.² Faculty, staff, and groundskeepers who are exposed to pesticides can be put at risk for negative health impacts. Minorities, tribal members, low-income and rural communities are disproportionately impacted by increased exposure to toxins in the air, water, and soil that result

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<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/all-around/Pages/Protecting-Children-from-Pesticides-Information-for-Parents.aspx#:~:text=Children%20are%20at%20higher%20risk,%2C%20parks%2C%20or%20on%20pets>.

²<https://www.pesticidereform.org/pesticides-human-health/#:~:text=Examples%20of%20acute%20health%20effects,disruption%20of%20the%20endocrine%20system>.

in more frequent and severe underlying health conditions.³ This bill uses an equity lens to focus on low income schools with an emphasis on safety across the economic spectrum.

SB 426 ensures that schools have coordination and resources to modernize their IPM plans and implement safer pesticide use practices. It creates a pilot program to begin improving the collection and retention of IPM related records, and sets a table for an advisory committee to collaborate on continuous solutions.

Passage of this legislation will help Oregon build on important work done in previous years to protect our kids from negative health impacts caused by exposure to toxins.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, I urge your support of SB426 and Toxics Free Schools.

Thank you,

Rep Courtney Neron

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

House District 26
Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain

³ <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/Documents/sha/state-health-assessment-full-report.pdf>