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Dear Senators.

I am writing on behalf of the Lane County Audubon Society in support of SB 426.

We have a keen interest in environmental hazards and have researched studies demonstrating the adverse effects of pesticides on health. Pesticide exposure puts children at risk of many detrimental health effects including cognitive impairment. We encourage children to play outside for their health and welfare (one study showed that even hearing bird song improves wellbeing!) but, the use of pesticides does the opposite by creating an unsafe environment for their development. Further, the burden is born disproportionately by children in disadvantaged communities.

Our organization has, in the past, supported Integrated Pest Management, and yet, the program is not adequately funded, supported, tracked, nor transparent. This process has been achieved with other hazards as exemplified by reporting on toxins such as lead and asbestos. Please support HB 426. Oregon can and should implement this important protection for our children.

Thank you,

Debbie Schlenoff, Ph.D. Conservation Chair Lane County Audubon Society