



# Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

February 11, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Andrea Salinas, Chair  
Members of the Oregon House Committee on Health Care

FROM: Lauren Herbert, MD  
Member of the Oregon Pediatric Society

SUBJECT: House Bill 4109 to phase out chlorpyrifos

I am writing to urge your strong support of **HB 4109**, which prohibits the aerial application of pesticides containing chlorpyrifos, and its use in Oregon by 2022.

I am a pediatrician in Springfield, Oregon and a member of the Oregon Pediatric Society, the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Many of the children in my clinic have parents who work in agricultural fields and are exposed to pesticides such as chlorpyrifos. Many other families I treat live adjacent to fields where they can be exposed to chlorpyrifos through aerial spraying. I am concerned about the adverse effects of chlorpyrifos on children's developing brains.

A multi-center study of 40 babies exposed to chlorpyrifos prenatally showed structural changes on MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) of the brains associated with higher prenatal exposure. The higher exposure was also associated with lower IQ (intelligent quotient) measures (Proc. Natl Acad Sci 109 (20) 7871-7876). This is one of multiple studies implicating chlorpyrifos in adverse neurodevelopmental effects in children.

Because of the evidence for these effects, and because of the chemical's link to infertility, cancer, and respiratory diseases, the United States Environmental Protection Agency banned the use of this pesticide in the home 20 years ago and planned to end its use in food crops. However, in 2017 then EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt denied the petition to ban the widely used chemical.

While I think it is important that all children in the United States be protected against chlorpyrifos, Oregonians must be responsible for the children within our borders. Passing HB 4109 would help protect our children, and their family members, from exposure to this toxic chemical.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. If I can be a resource for the committee, I am happy to be available.