

Submitter: Jacek Haciaak PsyD
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB426

Good afternoon Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dr. Jacek (Jack) Haciaak, Director of DynamicChanges LLC. I am a retired Psychologist, having served over 40 years as administrator of mental health programs and providing clinical services in five states, including having managed the Linn County Community Mental Health Services in Oregon.

My testimony on SB 426 is informed in parts by my experience growing up in an agricultural community where the use of pesticides and herbicides was an issue dividing the farming community, and by my participation for the past few years in advocacy organizations like the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

I support SB 426, the Toxic-Free Schools Act. In the United States, regulation and oversight of pesticide use has been sub-par to poor, and research has shown the linkage of pesticides to cancer, birth defects, and learning disabilities. Our federal and state governments are slow to develop effective regulations because of the influence of pesticide manufacturers and their trade associations. Delays in regulations have left the health of our children in schools at serious risk.

SB 426 modernizes its predecessor SB 637, School Integrated Pest Management, to assure that schools are receiving better protection from toxic chemical exposure. SB 426 will provide the structure and procedural framework for regulating pesticide use in our schools, and our children's developmental processes will be protected from the insidious effects of environmental toxins.

Please pass SB 426 and move it on to passage by the full Legislature and the Governor's signature.

Thank you.

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