

Toxic Free Schools SB426

I urge Dept of Education to support this bill.

I am very concerned about the health of our children and the lack of systems that require school district to update (or even know about) their IPM plans.

Children should be a toxic free place to learn and play. Pesticides are associated with learning disabilities, chronic illness, even death. Several years ago a school district was found using a rodenticide that could have been lethal to children. School districts don't want this risk of law suits either for the children or for their budget.

Pesticides should be treated like any other toxic chemical(radon, lead etc) – because they are a toxic chemical. Only 39% of schools posted up-to-date IPM plans. This is not acceptable. This bill would be consistent, easy, electronic record systems to make it easy for facility manager and superintendent to make children safe. Smaller school districts (there are 100 districts with less than 100 students) need the easy record keeping software that this bill enacts. Smaller rural districts are generally poorer. This is an **environmental equity problem that can be solved** by enacting this bill. Don't let poorer children be more at risk for pesticide exposure.

Transparency and Accuracy are needed. I, personally, was concerned about pesticide use at Bend-LaPine District. I was told I could receive but the bill would be \$1,000. Unfair and Unnecessary! This would be an equity issue for parents with less resources. Proper notification and record keeping of pesticide application is mandated by law. Make it so by the details of this bill.

Include Key Stakeholders. ODE was needed to be a stakeholder in 2009 IPM law, it was not. SB426 ensures agencies responsible for health and education are involved in this process of pesticides on school grounds. Our schools need to succeed. **Our schools need the support and input of DOE.**

As a former teacher from long ago, I know all employees are hard workers, work overtime and need systems to make things easier to employ. The enacting of the record keeping systems that SB426 would make it **easier to be safe, compliant with state law, and have the interests of children first, not last.**

Enact this bill.

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