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Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB426

Exposures to pesticides pose great risks to children's health but Oregon does not require these risks to be addressed as other exposures to toxic chemicals are. Oregon School Integrated Pest Management law requires Integrated Pest Management programs to be used to prevent the use of toxic pesticides in schools. Sadly most schools are not posting up-to-date school IPM plans on their websites - evidence that the program is being ignored,. This is because Oregon's School Districts have never received adequate resources to implement the requirements of this law. This must change.

As recently as 2020, Oregon schools have been found out of compliance and, in some cases, incurred thousands of dollars in civil penalties or letters of violation. Penalties don't protect children! Schools don't need fines - they need support to deal with pesticides safely and legally!

SB 426 will use modern technology to create and store pesticide application records and make it easy, and more equitable, to properly notify parents, students and teachers of pesticide applications, as is required by law. It is unfair to charge concerned parents thousands of dollars merely to get a paper copy of pesticide application records for their child's school district.. This would not happen if school districts were provided with a simple and easy electronic record keeping system to ensure they have 4 years of complete pesticide application records,

The 2009 School IPM law failed to include or involve Oregon Department of Education or children's health experts. SB 426 will correct this by requiring that the agencies responsible for children's education and children's health are stakeholders included in the decision making process for using pesticides on school grounds. These expert stakeholders will meet 4x each year to guide the direction of school pest and pesticide management issues.

SB 426 will make schools safer for children, teachers and others helping our children learn..