

February 19, 2023

Dear Senators,

My name is Lisa Fragala and I live in Eugene. I am writing to strongly support SB 426 The Toxic Free Schools Bill. I've taught in Eugene 4J schools for over 20 years and currently serve on the Lane Community College Board of Education. I will reference my experience in both cases but wanted to be clear that I am not speaking for any organization, but simply speaking for myself as an Oregonian.

SB 426 is an important step in protecting school children, faculty, and staff from regular exposure to harmful pesticides in schools. As an elementary educator, it saddens me to think that our schools could be toxic places. Children are more vulnerable to pesticide exposure and even small amounts can cause significant negative health effects such as asthma, learning disabilities, and chronic illness. Schools should be a place where families can be sure that both they and their children are not exposed to harmful chemicals and where educators do not need to worry about the long term impacts of chemical exposure.

Currently, too many Oregon schools are out of compliance with state laws such as the Healthy & Safe Schools Act. Oregon's School Districts need help to address this fact and they should have adequate resources to ensure that school children and educators have access to toxic free learning environments. SB 426 will ensure that the Department of Education has the necessary resources to implement and coordinate effective, safe pest management methods with school districts. It will work to prevent pesticide exposure on athletic fields, playgrounds, and learning spaces in Oregon's schools. This is something our communities deserve to see happen.

As a member of the LCC Board of Education, I personally know that integrated pest management (IPM) is possible in an educational institution when the right support is provided. Lane Community College (LCC) has a

plan for implementing IPM and LCC's main campus has been very successful at reducing the number and amount of both pesticides and herbicides. These practices make our campus a better place for students, faculty and staff, but it has required college leadership to be a longtime champion of sustainable practices.

SB 426 prioritizes environmental health and toxic free learning environments; Oregon's students and educators deserve this important priority. It also ensures that outdated policies are modernized and that the Department of Education has the necessary resources to accomplish this important work. As a long time educator in Oregon's schools, I urge you to support the Toxic Free Schools Act, SB 426. Thank you.