

Submitter: Lara Arkin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB426

My name is Lara Arkin and I'm the mother of 5 children. I live outside of Cottage Grove and my husband and I chose to homeschool our children. I wholeheartedly support the Toxics Free Schools Act.

Although my children don't attend classes at public schools, my family would still benefit from strengthening school integrated pest management. My two oldest boys are very involved in school and community sports. Along with their teammates, they use public school grounds managed by the Cottage Grove School District for practice and games during after school hours and on the weekends. My two youngest children, ages 7 and 5, are just starting to play team soccer for our local school and community sports groups. At this age, they are likely to just enjoy being outdoors, doing cartwheels and rolling on the grass, and sitting on the ground in their soccer shorts with their bare legs exposed.

Keeping my children healthy and safe is my most important priority as a mother. On our rural property and in our home, I do everything I can to avoid exposing my family to pesticides.

I want to be notified if pesticides are used on school grounds. One of my sons has asthma, and exposure to pesticide vapors could exacerbate an asthma attack. I know that, even in small amounts, pesticides are dangerous to children.

Please vote yes on SB 426, Toxics Free Schools, to give school districts more resources and input into dealing with pesticides where children like mine spend so much of their childhood days.