

To: Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Education Committee

Date 2/21/2023

Subject: Support for SB 426 Toxics Free Schools

My name is Don Francis, I live in Bend, and I'm the father of two children who spent their school years playing competitive sports. I'm testifying in strong support of SB 426 based on my personal experience with the lack of transparency around sharing information about School IPM from my local school district.

I have 23-years of direct experience in environmental consulting and contracting. I've worked as an environmental scientist and industrial hygienist and owned my own environmental consulting and contracting company for almost 20-years.

I am also a cancer survivor. In 2018 I was diagnosed with hairy cell leukemia. I am currently in remission – hairy cell leukemia is not curable. My cancer is directly linked to environmental exposure, especially herbicides.

Knowing that our two children were frequently playing sports on multiple school properties, my wife and I were concerned about the possibility of pesticide exposure, especially during after school hours or weekends when applications are most likely to occur due to the prohibition on spraying pesticides while students are in class. I requested 3-years of pesticide application records from the Bend La Pine School District.

I was quite shocked when I was told I would have to pay for this information. I was told that to locate pesticide records, have a lawyer review and redact them and then collate the data from pesticides records the school district needed to charge me \$1,700! (I have attached the quote.) Mind you, pesticide application records are required to be kept by both state and federal law. Billing a parent an exorbitant amount of money to access mandatory documents that should be readily accessible is a tremendous barrier to equity and transparency. Oregon's School Integrated Pest Management law requires School Districts to maintain pesticide application records for a period of four years. If records were maintained in a central location, it would be simple to share that information with parents and anyone else requesting that information.

Parents have a right to know what chemicals their children are being exposed to at school. It's time to level the playing field when it comes to transparency around pesticide use in Oregon's schools. Schools must have adequate funding to implement, compile and communicate what toxic chemicals are used on school campuses.

Due to the cost, I never learned what chemicals my children were exposed to at school. Let's step up to the 21st century and complete the unfinished business of helping schools implement an effective and modern School IPM program.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Don Francis

Don Francis - PRR November 18, 2021
Estimated provided on: November 30, 2021

Staff Member Involved in Work	Task	Hours	Hourly Wage	Total
Maintenance Staff	Research, review & collect data	15.00	\$ 73.80	\$ 1,107.00
BLS PRR Clerical	Clerical, review & redact	3.33	\$ 53.58	\$ 178.60
HDESD Attorney	Review & Redact	3.33	\$ 115.00	\$ 383.33
Copying costs				\$ 60.00
TOTAL ESTIMATE				\$ 1,728.93

Copying Costs:

Estimated total # of pages		400
Cost per page	\$	0.15
Total Estimated Copying Cost:	\$	60.00

Estimate to review documents:

Estimated total # of documents:	200 documents
Estimated total # of pages (avg is 2 pages):	400 pages
Estimated total review minutes (30 sec/page):	200 minutes

Document Review:

Estimated total review hours (review minutes translated to hours)	3.333333333 hours
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Estimate reflects the following:

Four years of pesticide records (2018-2021) for the Bend LaPine School District per ORS 634.750 (Pesticide Application Records) and ORS 634.740 (written notice requirements).