

Submitter: Mary Lou Emerson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB426

As a former member of the National Coalition of Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) over 10 years ago, I advocated for the elimination of herbicides and pesticides on the grounds of Portland Public Schools based on reams of information from a neurologist at OHSU. The science was clear: herbicides and pesticides are particularly toxic to developing children. Yet there was fierce opposition to such a transition because of the added labor and thought involved. Based on the information that came out of these meetings, one preschool chose to weed the grounds using volunteer parents. Still PPS made few changes, and another school had to be evacuated after application of herbicides during school hours.

The question still remains: When do we value the health of our very vulnerable developing children over the ease of broadly applying toxins that affect the developing body and brain of a child?

Sincerely,
Mary Lou Emerson