

Submitter: Carroll Johnston
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB426

It is very important that SB 426 is passed. Parents of Oregon school children already have enough to worry about without having to be concerned that their schools expose their children to toxic chemicals. Children are especially susceptible to toxic exposures as compared to adults, and extra care needs to be taken to protect them. SB 426 will be a big help in that regard.

I had personal experience with the significant negative health consequences of exposure to a pesticide during my military service in Vietnam. It changed by life in multiple unhealthy ways by affecting my digestive system, causing the growth of tumors, and increasing the likelihood that I passed along some negative genetic changes to my children. Oregon's children should not have to endure similar experiences.

Children are already exposed to toxins in our air and food from a variety of sources so the addition of even more toxic body burden from pesticides at schools could be the "straw that broke the camel's back" as the toxic effects build up. This is especially true for children in environmental justice communities who already tend to be exposed to greater than average amounts of toxins.

Ensuring that school staff and supporting agencies pay particular attention to implementation of the safest possible integrated pest management plan is an important way that our children can be protected. Also, having an online reporting system that can be accessed by parents will help them achieve some additional peace of mind. Please pass SB 426 so these changes can happen.