

February 21, 2023

TO: Senate Committee on Education
FROM: Our Children Oregon, The Children's Agenda
RE: Support for SB 426

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 426. My name is Marsh M Santoro, and I live in Fairview, Oregon.

I'm writing to support SB 426: Strengthening and Modernizing Oregon's Toxic Free Schools Act. SB 426 is a 2023 Children's Agenda priority concept. Exposure to toxic chemicals can have lasting and detrimental effects on a child's lifelong development and health. Even in small amounts, pesticide exposures put children at higher risk of adverse health effects such as asthma, learning disabilities, and chronic illness. Children in historically disadvantaged, low-income communities, communities of color, or those with parents who work with chemicals for their job, already bear the burden of increased exposure to harmful chemicals. Oregon children and youth should not have to worry about the potential risk of exposure in an institution meant to help them learn and grow.

I have 40 plus years as a Professional Child Care Provider and am a Child advocate, I do not want any child to be exposed in any way to chemicals that could impair their growth and or learning capabilities. That is why I support SB 426. SB 426 modernizes the Toxic Free Schools Act to assure that schools are receiving better protection from toxic chemical exposure.

All children should have the same opportunities regardless of where they live or what their parents do for a living. The children are our Future let's give them the best possible chance we can with everything we have. Thank you for you time.

Sincerely Always,
Marsh M Santoro