

Submitter: Meadowsweet Levi
On Behalf Of: Children
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB426

To Whom It May Concern:

Please stop poisoning our children by applying synthetic pesticides and herbicides at our schools. As parents, we want to know our children are safe at school and that all precautions are being taken to ensure our children's safety. I withdrew my child earlier this year from the Ruch Outdoor School upon finding out that our Medford School District has been applying large amounts of synthetic pesticides and herbicides at all of the schools in the district. In order to protect my child from the effects of round up and other Gyphosate products which were applied in gallons during some applications, i felt there was no other option. I took my children to the school district meetings to ask that the district stop spraying pesticides, receiving no response. I called and emailed the school district to ask if they would stop spraying pesticides and if they were inspired by the Talent /Phoenix school district to review their Integrated Pest Management Plans to become synthetic pesticide free schools, such as the Talent/Phoenix schools. The Medford School District stated they would not be changing their IPM nor would they stop spraying pesticides any time soon. This shows me as a parent that the health and safety of my children and all others is not being taken as a priority. In fact school districts are poisoning our children on purpose. Schools are being run as business' in order to save money and time for the workers, without regard to the children's (or teacher's) health and safety. If children are not being protected from the ground up, and poisonous chemicals are laid out beneath our children's feet without our children or parents or teacher's knowledge, how can we trust the school system to keep our children safe? Children need to learn about the effects of chemicals on their own developing bodies, and know the schools they are in are making sure to keep the earth beneath their feet clean, the air they breath clean, the environment they are learning in clean, so that our children can grow healthy and strong learning together in school.

There are more and more families taking their children out of public schools for this reason and many others.

When schools take children's health and safety as a priority, parents will begin to trust the schools again to protect their children.

Please stop applying synthetic pesticides and herbicides to all schools.

I look forward to the day when my children can attend a public school again, knowing that their safety comes first, and chemicals are never found on school grounds again.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Meadowsweet Levi