

Submitter: Frann Michel  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB414

I urge you to pass SB 414. If it is not yet all we need to clear the air, it is a strong step toward improving the health and enhancing the success of our children and teachers. Improving indoor air quality will help reduce illness and improve learning.

In the nineteenth century, those concerned about public health learned the importance of providing the population with clean drinking water to reduce the burden of diseases like cholera. In the twenty-first, we are learning to provide clean air for us to breathe. (<https://theconversation.com/us/topics/indoor-air-quality-46103>). The US Federal government and governments around the world are taking similar steps, and we need to do the same in Oregon. (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/cleanindoorair/>; <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/europe/belgium-imposes-ventilation-rules-for-businesses-to-combat-new-covid-surge-1.4612101>)

The White House summit on indoor air quality recommended that spaces achieve 4-6 changes of air per hour (ACH). That is likely to be an improvement for many places, but inadequate to protect us or our children from the ambient danger of unchecked SARS-CoV-2. For places occupied by people with airborne infections—which, given the dropping of other mitigation measures, can now mean pretty much anywhere—the CDC recommends 6-12 ACH (<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/glossary.html#A>), and some studies suggest 12 ACH is minimal (<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.08.09.22278555v10>). Washington State recommends 5-6 air changes per hour and CO2 readings below 800 for workplaces (<https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/333-256.pdf>); schools should have even higher standards to protect the growing brains and bodies of young people

In the UK, as George Monbiot notes, (<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jan/26/covid-roulette-clean-air-ventilation-long-covid>):

"Parliament now has a sophisticated air filter system, incorporating electrostatic precipitators. According to the contractor (<https://www.purifiedair.com/case-studies/palace-of-westminster/>) that fitted them, they ensure airborne viruses and bacteria are “kept to an absolute minimum within the space”. The same goes for the government departments (<https://www.purifiedair.com/case-studies/ministry-of-defence/>) where ministers work. At the World Economic Forum in Davos..., there were filtration systems in every room."

Our children are future leaders, and we should provide them the same clean air being provided to many current world leaders.