

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) submits written testimony in support of Treating Pesticides Like Other Toxic Chemicals Found At Schools; making record keeping tools and more support available for schools, and including Oregon Department of Education or children health experts in IPM in schools decisions.

Students need a toxic-free school environment in order to perform their best. If a school relies on harmful chemical pesticides to control pests because of a lack of awareness, indoor air quality is compromised and negatively impacts the learning environment. Children are highly vulnerable to acute and chronic health harm from pesticide exposure.

**In 2014, NCAP created and disseminated a survey to monitor the integrity of the Oregon School IPM Law. We sent the survey to 440 IPM coordinators across the state and 123 responded. They represented 197 campuses. 90% of survey respondents were supportive of efforts to reduce pesticides and their feedback helped shape this bill. Staff expressed barriers to successfully implementing the law, including staff time, funding, and availability of useful record keeping tools. We believe the improvements before you will meaningfully assess this feedback. Since passage of the Oregon's School IPM Law in 2009, school districts never received resources to better implement their IPM plans in their districts.**

**SB 426 will create a path towards accomplishment of key findings from the NCAP survey: Promote the distribution of standardized templates for paperwork requirements; expand the online tracking database to track alternative methods, pest activity and pesticide use. Encourage transparent online notification of pesticide applications for parent notification. Request additional input from IPM Coordinators; and involve the stakeholders in researching and reviewing the law to make it work better.<sup>1</sup>**

Involving stakeholders in the creation of solutions will lead to better compliance with the law. **Together with school IPM proponents Beyond Toxics and our other organization partners, and other supporters in this room, we strongly urge all of you to support this bill.**

We can create safe spaces for kids to learn and play while also supporting the school staff who maintain the IPM program and manage pests and weeds. Thank you for considering this information as we work to protect the health of Oregon's children.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> [Special Report: Oregon Schools are Reducing Pesticides! An Analysis of State Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) Legislation](#), Megan Dunn, 2015