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Good afternoon Chairman, Senators,

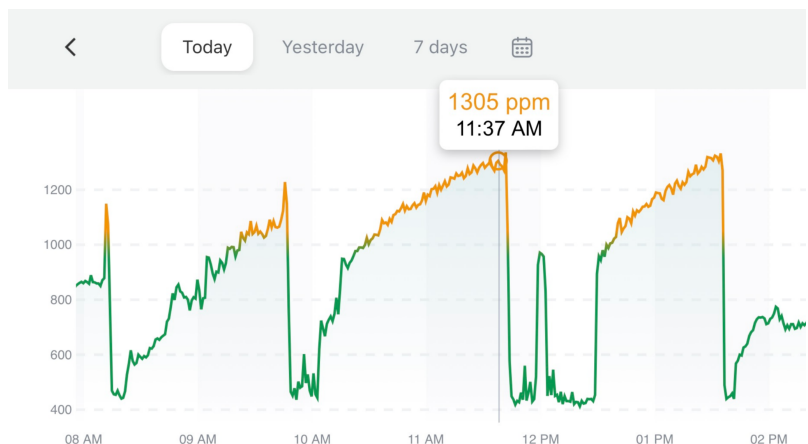
My name is Greg Parsons. I am the parent of a student in the Eugene 4J District.

I support SB 414 and request that it specifically be modified to promote 2023 ASHRAE “Very High Priority” standards of MERV13 filtration and 3-6 (minimum 2 outside) air changes per hour (<https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/free%20resources/design-guidance-for-education-facilities.pdf>).

Over the last four months I sent a CO2 monitor to school with my son. I started doing this when I read on the district website that they employ MERV 8 filters. They remove neither wildfire smoke nor Covid. MERV 13 is the standard currently recommended by ASHRAE. The district purchased bipolar ionization—whether it even works at a size larger than a shoebox is widely questioned by scientists, including in a recent paper by the EPA.

When I, as a parent, understood that the 4J school district’s Covid and wildfire FILTRATION plan hinged on MERV 8 filters, I started looking at their VENTILATION plan. Thinking at least the teacher could open the window to dilute the risk of Covid and airborne flu. I started sending an Aranet4 sensor with my child. I even donated another one to the teacher in hope she would use it to educate herself about the risk of elevated CO2 levels I’d been seeing in the room during each class session. I encouraged her to open the single window and door.

I brought the data to the attention of the principle and the district engineer, both of whom mostly ignored my data, did not answer specific questions, and responded with unsolicited assurances that this, the district’s flagship construction, Edison Elementary, is brand new and therefore must have correctly functioning systems. My data continues to show it the kindergarten room not achieve the 4-6 air changes per hour the district website advertises. Assuming this is achieved entirely by filtration (thus not visible with correlation to CO2), then the expectation for “fresh” air is placed entirely on MERV 8 filters and suspect covid-era contractors debuting broadly-questioned technology.



Knowing a MERV 8 will filter neither smoke nor Covid, and having moved to Eugene from the mountains where particulate readings can exceed 500 on school days, I knew there would be days when I would keep my kindergartener home because the air was sick. And that’s what happened. As both Covid and wildfires surged last fall, we as a family took two sick days. Because the AIR was sick. And we didn’t want to go into a school that couldn’t filter the smoke nor ventilate the covid at the same time.

As a parent, I’ve spent months advocating for these measures at the school and district level. I’ve learned that educators and administrators are waiting for official state guidance, and that no improvements will be made without it.

Thank you.