



Feb. 22, 2023

To the Senate Committee on Education:

At its meeting on Feb. 21, 2023, the Board of Friendly Area Neighbors Association in Eugene, OR unanimously voted to support the passage of SB 426 Toxics Free Schools.

Within Friendly Area Neighborhood (FAN) there are two elementary schools and one middle school. Within a few blocks of our neighborhood boundary there are a high school, a middle school and an elementary school. Children who live in FAN attend these schools.

The passage of this bill will give the Department of Education resources to support school districts to adopt a "prevention first" method of pest control practices to prevent children's exposures to pesticides on athletic fields, playgrounds, cafeterias and learning spaces. Oregon school districts and regulatory agencies currently lack coordination and resources to implement safer pesticide use. Our children are our future: protecting their health and safety is a top priority.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bray
FAN Board Member and Equity Action & Sustainability Teams
On behalf of the FAN Board