

Submitter: Colleen Hunter  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB426

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

My name is Colleen Hunter and I am a 38-year veteran public school teacher, having retired after teaching for 18 years in Oregon. I am a volunteer activist as a member of CAPE (Community Alliance for Public Education) and SAfER (Springfield Alliance for Equity and Respect). I am asking you all to support SB 426 Toxic Free Schools.

As a survivor of Stage 3C Ovarian Cancer very recently, who is in the midst of eleven months of maintenance chemotherapy to remain in remission, I have a very personal interest in the safety and well being of our state's school environments and those who work, play and study there. Having worked in a school facility with a history of cancer and autoimmune cases in adults and children, I am one of many recently diagnosed staff members. My teaching partner of 12 years, passed away from pediatric leukemia.

System improvements to policy around toxic substances in schools will protect student and staff members' health and well being, as well as community members who may use them to enjoy the schools' fields and playgrounds without the threat of the effects of unknown toxins. Providing transparency regarding the use of toxins in school environments would be greatly improved through the passage of SB 426.

The ability to make use of modern technology to create and store pesticide applications data will streamline record keeping to help eliminate equity barriers and improve transparency around the use of toxic chemicals on school grounds. I urge you to support SB426 in order to provide equity and safety for the health and well being of all Oregonians, especially students and staff of our public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of myself, my coworkers and students of Mount Vernon Elementary School.