

Submitter: Arwen Davis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB414

I am writing to share my support of Senate Bill 414, relating to school indoor air quality.

My child is currently enrolled in an Oregon public school. All Oregon children, including mine, deserve access to excellent public education. However, until schools invest in high indoor air quality, Oregon schools will be hard pressed to provide a safe and equitable learning environment for all.

Improving indoor air quality is cost effective, and it comes with an impressive list of benefits. Ventilation helps clear virus particles from the air, while filtration traps those particles, removing them from circulation. Improving air quality in schools will help keep students, staff, and education healthy from respiratory illnesses in school.

Further, with the increased timeline for and extent of wildfires in Oregon, improving indoor air quality is becoming an essential requirement for schools. Improving filtration systems will make our schools a haven for students during fire season, rather than a health risk.

Improving air quality, even minimally, is associated with improved cognitive function and less absences, as well as reduced transmission of illnesses, reducing asthma attacks, cardiovascular disease, and even premature mortality. Indoor air quality improvement will improve entire communities and help them stay healthier longer, and will almost certainly improve learning outcomes.

As a parent, I fully support Bill 414 - thank you for taking the steps to keep Oregon children safe and ready to learn!

Arwen L Davis