

Submitter: K Davis
On Behalf Of: SB426 and SB546
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Chairs Steiner and Sanchez; Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg and Smith; Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 426A, Toxic Free Schools and SB546A, Toxic Free Cosmetics. Our world has become unduly burdened by toxic chemicals, wreaking havoc on human and non-human life forms and their ecosystems. Children are critical sensitive to, and over exposed to chemicals from the moment of their birth.

Please support Toxic Free Schools (SB 426) and fix an oversight that omitted the Oregon Department of Education in the original statute and create a path towards modernized record keeping and safer choices for pest control under the Healthy and Safe Schools Act. Doing so will end a 14-year unfunded mandate by providing resources and technological assistance to school districts to reduce harmful pesticide use; coordinate requirements under the existing School IPM statues and the Healthy and Safe Schools Act for the first time since their passage and modernize pesticide record-keeping processes and increase transparency for communities. SB 426 was voted out of the Senate Education Committee on March 30th with bipartisan support and has been referred to the Joint Ways and Means Committee to address its fiscal impact.

Please support Toxic Free Cosmetics (SB 546) so that Oregon can require the public disclosure of all chemical ingredients on a company's product webpage. Doing so is an accessible way for consumers to make educated purchasing decisions. Additionally, it will ban the sale of the worst chemicals in cosmetics and personal care products like many other states have done. SB 546 passed out of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee on March 28th, unanimously and bipartisan, and has been referred to the Joint Ways and Means Committee to address its fiscal impact. It was initially sent straight to the Senate floor because no fiscal impact has been found for this biennium. We urge this committee to refer SB 546 out back to the Senate floor, and commit to funding a part time staffer within OHA starting in 2027 for this critical toxins reductions program.

We all want health environments for our children and grandchildren. Reducing exposures to toxic chemicals has an important role in manifesting a healthier Oregon. Please vote yes on SB426, SB 546.