

February 19, 2025

TO: House Committee on Education
FROM: Jenna Marie, Our Children Oregon
SUBJECT: Support for HB 2684

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2684. My name is Jenna Marie and I am the Data & Research Manager for Our Children Oregon (OCO), a statewide policy advocacy nonprofit dedicated to advancing whole-child wellbeing through data-driven, equitable policies.

OCO convenes the Children's Agenda, which brings together a coalition of over 135 organizations statewide dedicated to improving child wellbeing. **HB 2684 is included in the 2025 Children's Agenda and has strong and broad support from our partner organizations across Oregon.**

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) focuses on nontoxic and least toxic control methods to address pest problems. To protect young people, IPM in schools has been recommended by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, American Public Health Association, and the National Parent Teacher Association (*Roberts, J., & Karr, C. 2018; Pesticide Exposure in Children*).

As a child, I struggled with severe environmental allergies and frequent asthma exacerbations, resulting in weeks of missed school days every year. My story is not unique, and the link between childhood asthma and chronic

school absenteeism is well documented (*Johnson SB, et. al. Asthma and Attendance in Urban Schools. Prev Chronic Dis 2019;16:190074. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd16.190074>*). Studies have shown a significant association between the prevalence of childhood asthma and the presence of pests, allergens, and traditional pesticides. Furthermore, IPM has been found to decrease exposure to both pests and traditional pesticides while decreasing the levels of allergens found in buildings (*Kass D, et. al. Effectiveness of an integrated pest management intervention in controlling cockroaches, mice, and allergens in New York City public housing. Environ Health Perspect. 2009 Aug;117(8):1219–25. doi: 10.1289/ehp.0800149. Epub 2009 Apr 15. PMID: 19672400; PMCID: PMC2721864*).

Oregon’s children deserve to go to school in an environment that is safe, toxic free, and that does not exacerbate existing health conditions. HB 2684 is designed to protect students from pesticide exposure while they are at school, and has the potential to reduce asthma and allergy exacerbations caused by traditional pesticides and/or uncontrolled pests.

We thank you for your time and commitment to improving the lives of young Oregonians. **Our Children Oregon urges you to support Toxic Free Schools and vote yes on HB 2684.**

Thank you,
Jenna Marie
Data & Research Manager, Our Children Oregon

View the [2025 Children’s Agenda](#)