

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Raevyn Thompson and **I am writing in strong support of House Bill 2684 because it is essential for protecting Oregon students and school staff from unnecessary pesticide exposure while promoting safer pest management practices in schools.**

As many folks know, In 2009, the Oregon Legislature passed the School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Act. More than 16 years later, School IPM law is in need of modernization to improve transparency and provide clarity about school gardens on school campuses. We are now in 2025, where nearly half of Oregon's school districts have not updated their School IPM plan in over 5 years and over 10% do not have IPM plans available on school district websites. This is alarming in many ways, but I am going to emphasize the impact this has and will continue to have on children's health. Children are especially vulnerable to pesticide exposure due to their developing immune and nervous systems. **HB 2684 ensures** that school districts review, update if needed, and readopt plans every 5 years. Reviewing and re-adopting School IPM plans is an essential process for school districts to ensure their plans are up to date with modern science that agencies use to amend pesticide laws. Requiring regular updates to school IPM plans ensures that outdated and ineffective practices are replaced with the latest research-backed strategies. This bill helps school districts maintain best practices in pest management while protecting students, teachers, and school staff from exposure to harmful chemicals.

In order to try to mitigate children's exposures to pesticides, we have to be aware of, understand and modernize School IPM in the environment where this may be impacting children's health the most. **I urge you to support HB 2684 to protect students, school staff, and our environment by ensuring stronger, more transparent, and science-based pest management practices in Oregon schools.**

Thank you,

Raevyn Thompson

Eugene Oregon

