

April 15, 2025

TO: Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Ali King on behalf of 2025 Children's Agenda

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2684

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ali King and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for Our Children Oregon (OCO), a statewide organization that champions equitable policies and opportunities for every child by leveraging data and research. The [Children's Agenda](#), convened annually by OCO, brings together more than 135 organizations statewide to create a holistic legislative agenda dedicated to improving the wellbeing of Oregon's children, youth, and families. HB 2684 is included in the 2025 Children's Agenda and has strong and broad support from our partner organizations across Oregon.

As a coalition of child and family advocates, educators, administrators, parents, healthcare workers, and policy experts, we have seen firsthand how children are especially vulnerable to pesticide exposure due to their developing immune and nervous systems.

In 2022, on a scale from 0-1, Oregon children ranked 0.65 on their societal vulnerability. The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health, including natural/human-caused disasters and disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss.¹

¹ <https://ourchildrenoregon.org/publications/oregon-kids-count/>

People in historically disadvantaged communities already bear the brunt of increased exposures to harmful chemicals. Students who attend schools in these neighborhoods are routinely exposed to air, water, and soil toxins and may have more underlying health conditions than students in higher-income areas.

HB 2684 ensures that school districts review, update if needed, and readopt plans every five years to make sure they are up to date with modern science and requires them to make these plans and low-impact pesticide lists available online to ensure that families and school staff have easy access to critical safety information.

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of Oregon's children and families.

We 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.

Sincerely,

Our Children Oregon

Beyond Toxics

Next Up Action Fund

Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries

Oregon Association of Student Councils

Oregon Environmental Council

Oregon Food Bank

Oregon Primary Care Association

Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Prevent Child Abuse Oregon

Southern Oregon Success

Urban League of Portland

Washington County Kids

Learn more at:

www.OurChildrenOregon.org/2025-childrens-agenda

For questions, contact Ali King, Policy & Advocacy Director

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