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TO: Chair: Sen. Florence Shapiro; Vice Chair: Sen. Dan Patrick
Members: Sen. John Carona; Sen. Wendy Davis; Sen. Mario Gallegos, Jr.; Sen. Steve Ogden; Sen. Kel Seliger; Sen. Leticia Van de Putte; Sen. Royce West

RE: Senate Bill ~~874~~³ - Repeal Section 1951.212 of the Occupations Code "Integrated Pest Management Programs for School Districts".

POSITION: AGAINST

I am opposed to repeal of School IPM. This is a seriously dangerous measure that will put children at increased risk for pesticide exposures and poor pest management.

The bill is a shock to School IPM experts in Texas and across the country, who know Texas Texas has been a leader in School since having IPM on the books since the early 1990s.

This bill is very dangerous and goes so far as to allow individuals to apply over-the-counter household aerosol pesticides and bug bombs which have been known to kill children. These products should never be used in a school setting.

Integrated Pest Management, or "IPM," is a program of prevention, monitoring, and control that eliminates or drastically reduce hazardous pesticide use. In the place of carcinogens, acute toxins, neurotoxins, reproductive and developmental toxins, alternative methods such as cultural, mechanical, biological, and other non-toxic practices are utilized. Only least-hazardous chemicals are introduced as a last resort, if at all.

✓ People are more likely to spray if they don't understand what makes pests tick, says Rutz, NYS IPM director and a professor of veterinary entomology at Cornell. "It doesn't matter if they're farmers, school custodians, golf course superintendents or homeowners," Rutz says.

Texas must do more to provide safe schools for children.. School IPM is an integral component for both indoor and outdoor safety. Politicians, parents, school board members, teachers, administrators and even facility mangers are not familiar with IPM and need a crash course on IPM in Texas. Instead of dismantling School IPM like it's a Lego set that that is burdensome for schools, we should build on our existing School IPM Program. We need verifiable sustainable School IPM that works to protect every student in every school across the state of Texas.

Who Supports School IPM?

- National PTA; American Public Health Association have issued resolutions organizations; CDC; EPA; WHO; ANA - American Nursei Association

- U.S. EPA considers IPM to be an important component of its Tools for Schools program advocating for better indoor air quality for schools.

Health and Safety Impacts Associated with IPM

- Children spend prime developmental years in schools, six to eight hours a day, five days a week, 200 days plus a year for eighteen years plus of their lives.
- Pesticide exposure can adversely affect a child's neurological, respiratory, immune, and endocrine system and has been shown to cause or exacerbate asthma symptoms
- Because most of the symptoms of pesticide exposure, from respiratory distress to difficulty in concentration, are common in school children and may also have other causes,
- Not only is IPM implementation more effective at controlling pests over conventional pest management practices that rely on toxic pesticides but it can also lead to long-term health benefits, such as reduced exposure to rodent and cockroach allergens, important asthma triggers
- Pesticide-related illnesses often go unrecognized and unreported.
- Adverse health effects, such as nausea, dizziness, respiratory problems, headaches, rashes, and mental disorientation, may appear even when a pesticide is applied according to label directions.
- According to the CDC, asthma is a leading cause of school absence in the U.S.
- More than 12 million asthma-related absences per year.
- IPM more effective at controlling pests than conventional pest management practices
- IPM can lead to long-term health benefits, such as reduced exposure to rodent and cockroach allergens, important asthma triggers. For this reason, the U.S.
- EPA considers IPM to be an important component of its Tools for Schools program advocating for better indoor air quality for schools.
- The IPM law has resulted in a shift from more- to less-toxic pesticide use in Texas schools.
- A 1994 Texas A&M University study showed that the two most consistently used insecticides for indoor and outdoor pests in schools at the time were diazinon and Dursban, two broad-spectrum, residual insecticides that were associated with numerous public complaints.
- In the 2005 Texas AgriLife Extension Service statewide survey conducted ten years after enactment of the school IPM law, insect baits, followed by insect growth regulators and low-toxicity inorganic insecticides such as boric acid (all preferred products under state regulations) were the most commonly used products.
- This significant shift away from conventional insecticides has not been seen in school districts from other states.
- The school IPM law requires good record-keeping from all school districts. This has resulted in better accountability and provides a way to track improvements in pesticide stewardship not commonly seen in schools in other states.
- In a Maryland study, the Montgomery County Public School System reduced pesticide applications from **5,000 to 600 per year within three years of implementing IPM.**
- Similar reductions have been reported in Texas since implementation of school IPM regulations.

Quality of Pest Control

- Texas schools have indicated greater satisfaction with their pest control programs, both in-house and contracted, since implementation of the school IPM law. According to the 2005 Texas AgriLife Extension Service study, schools were 75% more likely to be satisfied with their pest control program compared to 1993, before the law went into effect. In addition, the study found that 75% of school IPM coordinators believe that the state IPM requirements have resulted in more effective pest management in their districts.
- Similar conclusions were found in a 2001 survey of 292 school districts by the then Structural Pest Control Board. In this survey, a substantial majority of schools felt that IPM had resulted in pest control equal to or better than pest control services before the IPM requirements went into effect.
- Research consistently shows that whenever IPM is implemented in the urban environment it tends to result in better pest control, generally with the use of less hazardous pesticides and less contaminating application methods. There is now nearly universal agreement among regulatory officials, academics, facilities managers, architects and pest

IPM in AGRICULTURE:

IPM saves farmers millions of dollars and keeps New Yorkers safer and healthier by keeping thousands of tons of pesticide out of water and soil, says Cornell professor Don Rutz. He added that IPM also represents a massive return on investment for the state.

Meanwhile, emerging pests like bed bugs and Swede midge are poised to take off and take over.

"Our savings the first year were dramatic, unbelievable," says grower Doug Mason, who enrolled his 325 acres of sweet corn, tomatoes and potatoes in IPM nearly 30 years ago. He learned, for example, the best ways to scout for pests, cut back on pesticides and use newer "soft" pesticides that target pests while leaving other organisms unharmed.

"Last year we didn't use a single spray on our 200 acres of sweet corn because IPM's trap network showed the pests weren't there," the Wayne County grower said. Savings: about \$18,000 on sprays he didn't use.

bugs

Provided

Shimmery cast skins (shown above with adult bed bugs), eggs and bloodstains on linens point to a bed bug infestation.

But IPM isn't just for New York's 36,000 farmers.

"Bed bug calls have skyrocketed in New York City as well as the nation," says Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann, IPM's urban entomologist who chairs the city's bed bug advisory counsel.

- * "People end up spraying stuff that doesn't even work because they don't know the preventive steps to take," She says the wrong spray could just spread bugs to other rooms or apartments. New York City's advisory council is about to release guidelines that will reverse that trend, she notes. Her leadership? Gone, if the NYS IPM Program is lost.