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## Congress of the United States

Committee on Natural Resources  
Ranking Member, Energy and  
Minerals Subcommittee

Committee on Education and  
the Workforce

Founder and Co-Chair,  
Research & Development Caucus

# Are Your Children Being Poisoned by Pesticides at School?

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to ask you to join with me as an original cosponsor on legislation to ensure a safe school environment in which our children can learn. My legislation, the **School Environment Protection Act (SEPA)** would protect the health of children and teachers through the adoption of safe and effective school pest management programs that do not rely on the use of toxic pesticides. Because children are among the most vulnerable to exposure to toxic chemicals, and given the tremendous advances in techniques and successful non-toxic pest management programs nationwide, this legislation is both in our children's best interest and especially timely.

Despite a successful trend toward non-chemical strategies, pesticides remain prevalent and in our schools. **Eliminating toxic pesticide use through the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policies and programs at the federal level would create a healthier learning environment for our children.** While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among others, recommend schools adopt IPM programs, without minimum federal standards, the protection provided a child is uneven and inadequate across the country. SEPA would provide basic levels of protection for children and teachers from the use of toxic pesticides at schools.

Thirty-four states have taken action to address pesticide use at their schools. These include a mixture of pesticide restrictions and parental notification and posting of signs before certain pesticides are used. However, the state protection is uneven across the country and children in sixteen states are provided no protection at all.

The **School Environment Protection Act** offers our nation an opportunity to protect children's health and create a safer learning environment. If you would like to join me as an original cosponsor on the School Environment Protection Act, please contact Aisha Morris on my staff at (202) 225-5801 or [aisha.morris@mail.house.gov](mailto:aisha.morris@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT  
Member of Congress