



Washington State Senate

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Mr. Treuman Katz, Chair
Washington State Board of Health
P.O. Box 47990
Olympia, WA 98504

September 24, 2008

Dear Chair Katz and Members of the Washington State Board of Health:

I am writing to request that the Board of Health delay taking action on the School Environmental Health and Safety Rule, Chapter 246-366A WAC, until after the 2009 Legislative Session.

I support the work of the Board to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for students statewide. I understand that the Board and the Department of Health have undergone a lengthy process to address issues raised by many divergent stakeholders. Unfortunately, the Rule is costly to implement and has come before the Board just as the State and our public schools face challenging budget constraints. As you may know, we are heading into the 2009 Legislative Session with a projected budget deficit of over \$3 billion.

Given the current budget situation, the timing of the rule implementation is of particular concern. I respectfully request that the Board delay taking action on the Rule until after the Legislature has had the opportunity to consider the Rule and to determine funding priorities for the 2009-11 Operating Budget and the Capital Budget. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Craig Pridemore
State Senator, 49th Legislative District

cc: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, State Board of Health

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WA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH