



The WASHINGTON SPECTATOR

"Oregon Health Authority Condemned
by Scientists For Scrubbing Report on
Wireless Hazards in Schools"

**U.S. State Health Authority Downplayed Wi-Fi
Health Risks to School Children and Omitted
Scientific Research Showing Harm**

Breaking News: Oregon State Health Authority Downplayed Wi-Fi Health Risks to School Children and Omitted Scientific Research Showing Harm

Experts worldwide slam the Oregon Health Authority report and call on the governor and legislature for retraction. An investigation may result in hearings in the Oregon State Legislature.

The Washington Spectator has published an investigative report by Daniel Forbes entitled "[Oregon Health Authority Condemned by Scientists For Scrubbing Report on Wireless Hazards in Schools](#)," which exposes how the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) issued an error-ridden report to the legislature on children and health effects of wireless radiation in schools. [An international group of experts](#), the [Environmental Working Group](#) and [Physicians for Safe Technology](#) have sent letters on the scientific basis for a retraction of the OHA report to Oregon Gov. Kate Brown.

"No way round it: Oregon's public health agency, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), has issued a shoddy, biased report on the potential harm to the state's roughly 600,000 school kids from the wireless devices proliferating

in classrooms" Forbes wrote.

Forbes, a Portland-based reporter, documents how the OHA relied on wireless industry-funded studies, inaccurately presented research findings, and ignored studies showing harmful effects.

Forbes analyzed several drafts of the OHA report that he obtained through public information requests. He found an inadequate review process coupled with deletions of scientific findings linking wireless radiation exposure to cancer and other health issues.

In response to the OHA report, senior scientists from the United States and around the world, including Dr. Linda Birnbaum, former director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program, signed [a letter](#) sent to Brown, the State Legislature, and OHA's leadership calling for immediate retraction of the report due to its flaws, inconsistencies, and lack of science-based conclusions. The numerous inadequacies and lack of science-based conclusions have been documented in a [100-page report](#) by [Environmental Health Trust](#), referenced in the scientists' letter.

Devra Davis, Ph.D., founder of Environmental Health Trust, released a [video](#) commenting on the report. She says it would never have passed peer review or been published by the National Academy of Sciences. "It's a highly selective, skewed analysis of a limited amount of literature that includes biased studies funded by industry."

Investigative Hearings

Cindy Franklin of Consumers for Safe Cell Phones characterized the report as reeking of "pressure by the wireless industry to repeat the lie that wireless radiation is safe, even for children." She urged Oregonians to call or email their representatives. "OHA leadership has been implicated in this blatant, coordinated public health deception," Franklin said. "How high up does this go? Governor Brown and the legislature must immediately hold investigative hearings."

The Washington Spectator investigation could lead to hearings in the Oregon State Legislature. Oregon State Sen. Michael Dembrow was quoted by Forbes as saying, "If there are flaws in the report, they need to be remedied. The report is important to get a clear assessment of the science."

"We need to have a hearing to hear both a critique of the report and OHA's defense. Then the legislature needs to come up with funding to do a more in-depth report," added Dembrow, chair of the Senate Committee on Education.

Dembrow concluded, "It was a mistake on OHA's part to make it look like a real study. It's more like a memo." Unlike a scientific journal article, "There were no reviewers as such."

Scientific Letter by International Experts, Physicians, and Environmental Health Organizations

The [letter by scientists to Brown](#) states, "The report would not pass peer review as it omitted animal and cellular studies and thus it does not provide a comprehensive or systematic review of the relevant literature. ... The failure of Oregon Health Authority to utilize in their review the significant body of evidence

showing harm to animals from wireless radiation exposure is contrary to public health principles and OHA's own established protocols of using animal studies in many other reviews. By omitting key peer-reviewed scientific evidence of adverse effects and downplaying the scientific studies showing impacts to memory and the brain, the OHA review does not comport with the agency's mission of protecting and promoting public health."

[Read the letter by U.S., International, and Environmental Health Trust experts.](#)

Watch Dr. Devra Davis's Response to the Oregon Health Authority Wireless Report



Physicians For Safe Technology Response

Physicians For Safe Technology (PST) also sent [a letter](#) to the Oregon Health Authority stating the Oregon Health Authority report "endangers the public by asserting that health risks are absent or minimal."

"PST believes that today the scientific evidence strongly suggests risks for cancers, neurological disease, reproductive harm, and neurodevelopmental risks for the fetus and newborn. Sufficient evidence exists in peer-reviewed professional and scientific papers published over more than two decades to reach the conclusion that public health warnings are necessary, and that the public should be both educated and protected by health agencies. ... Existing FCC (Federal Communications Commission) guidelines for public exposure are grossly inadequate. The public is not protected by them. The State of Oregon is unwise to rely on the FCC's outdated and grossly inadequate wireless health safety standards as a measure of protection for children."

Environmental Working Group Response

Another major environmental health organization, the Environmental Working Group, also submitted [a letter](#) to the Oregon Health Authority stating, "Given the substantial scientific evidence demonstrating that RFR (radiofrequency radiation) exposure can negatively affect the brain and the heart, EWG is calling for the Oregon Health Authority, or OHA, to revise its report ... by including the latest findings from human and animal studies that demonstrate the risks of RFR for children's health and public health generally."

[Read the letter by the Environmental Working Group](#)

Background on the Oregon Report

On New Year's Eve 2020, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) released the ["Wireless Technology Health Risks Report"](#) following the Oregon State Legislature's Senate Bill 283 mandate to "review peer-reviewed, independently funded scientific studies" of the health effects of exposure to microwave radiation, particularly exposure that results from the use of wireless network technologies in schools or similar environments."

Click to Download

- [Scientific Letter by US, International, and Environmental Health Trust experts](#)
- [Scientific Letter by the Environmental Working Group](#)
- [Scientific Letter by Physicians for Safe Technology](#)
- [EHT Critique Documenting the Errors and Unscientific Conclusions of the OHA Wireless Report](#)
- [Printable Factsheets on Health Effects of Wi-Fi School](#)
- [Washington Spectator article "Oregon Health Authority Condemned by Scientists For Scrubbing Report on Wireless Hazards in Schools"](#)

About Daniel Forbes

Daniel Forbes is a Portland, Ore.-based reporter whose 20-article series on Portland's [Bullseye Glass](#) helped spur Oregon's air toxics regulatory reform. (Bullseye paid its neighbors \$6.5 million to settle claims against it.) His journalism helped lead to a change in Portland's regulation of neurotoxic lead dust from unfettered housing demolitions. He has also covered issues such as lead in Portland school water and lead dust from construction.

He has received awards from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, the Online News Association, and a chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. He's published widely, appeared on national TV and radio, and also testified before the U.S. House and Senate at hearings his reporting initiated after catching the U.S. drug czar paying TV networks to demonize marijuana to influence voters. He also published a series on the theft of a black Southern Baptist church. Sparked by his successful, free-speech federal lawsuit against Lincoln Center and the New York Police Department, he authored the novel *Derail this Train Wreck*, published by Fomite Press.

Final Thoughts

The Oregon report exposé highlights the urgent need for science-based wireless safety limits. As EHT documents in [our critique](#) of the OHA report, no U.S. health agency — not the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), nor the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) — has ever reviewed the full body of research on the health effects of wireless radiation in the last 30 years.

The webpages of U.S. federal agencies are a house of cards. No group of U.S. government experts is staying updated on the latest science. No pre-market safety testing of Wi-Fi was done before it came to market. There is no post-market surveillance of effects. The EPA was fully defunded from setting proper safety limits in 1996, and the federal government adopted its current "safety limits" based on input by groups dominated by the telecommunications industry. These limits did not consider long-term exposure and did not incorporate research on health effects to children whose brains are developing. Yet despite over a thousand studies showing harm, these wireless radiation limits have not changed since 1996. This is why Environmental Health Trust has filed legal action against the FCC.

— Theodora Scarato, Executive Director of Environmental Health Trust

Environmental Health Trust is a nonprofit 501(c)3 that relies on your donations to publish independent research and create educational resources to spark meaningful change and protective public policy.

Download EHT's New Resource on Wi-Fi in Schools



WIRELESS IN SCHOOLS

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY COUNCIL OF EUROPE RESOLUTION 1815

- Calls on governments to "take all reasonable measures" to reduce exposure to EMFs "particularly the exposure to children and young people who seem to be most at risk ... particularly in schools and classrooms, give preference to wired Internet connections, and strictly regulate the use of mobile phones by school children."
- Numerous European cities have passed resolutions to implement Resolution 1815. In Spain for example: Barakaldo, Errenteria, Espartinas, Hospitalet, Jerez de la Frontera, San Sebastián, Vitoria, Villa de Plentzia, Cornellá de Llobregat, Torrox, Mula, Villa de Buenavista del Norte, Poio, Arganda del Rey, Cenizate, Hospitalet, Juntas generales de Guipúzcoa, Villava.

UNITED STATES

- New Hampshire and Maryland State Commissions recommend wired (not Wi-Fi) networks in schools.
- Oregon law requires investigation into health effects of wireless.
- Several PTA and teacher union actions to decrease exposure.

ISRAEL

- Wi-Fi banned in preschool and kindergarten.
- Wi-Fi restricted in elementary classes.
- Government recommends children reduce cell phone radiation.
- Personal use of cell phones during school is banned.

FRENCH POLYNESIA

- Wi-Fi deactivated in kindergartens.
- Wi-Fi OFF is default setting in schools.
- Nationwide educational campaign.

BELGIUM

- Wi-Fi banned in preschool/daycare in Ghent, Belgium.
- Ban on sale of cell phones for young children.

CYPRUS

- Wi-Fi banned in kindergarten.
- Directive to remove Wi-Fi from elementary classes.

FRANCE

- Wi-Fi banned in kindergartens.
- Teachers have hardwired computers.
- Wi-Fi network is turned OFF as the default setting.
- Cell phones banned in elementary/middle schools and playgrounds.
- Nationwide campaign educating on how to reduce exposure.

SPAIN

- Hospitalet City deactivated Wi-Fi in nursery schools.
- Basque Ombudsman recommends measures to reduce RFR levels in schools.

RUSSIA

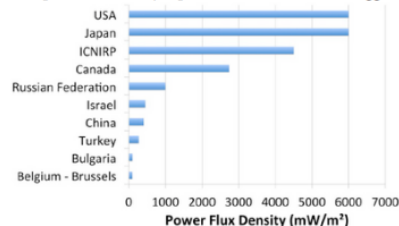
- Recommends wired instead of wireless for schools and warns against cell phones for children.



Countries with radio frequency radiation (RFR) wireless exposure limits more stringent than ICNIRP/FCC.

Schools are often considered "sensitive areas" with stricter RFR limits.

RFR power flux density exposure limits at 900 MHz (Clegg 2020)



China
Russia
Belgium
Israel
Chile
Belarus
Bulgaria
Serbia
Slovenia
Italy

Montenegro
Switzerland
Greece
India
Liechtenstein
Tajikistan
Kazakhstan
Uzbekistan
Kyrgyzstan

Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and wireless devices expose students to RFR.

Published research links RFR to:

Brain cancer
Breast cancer
DNA damage
Thyroid cancer
Memory damage
Sperm damage
Brain damage
Tumor promotion
Impaired growth

Headaches
Diabetes
Hyperactivity
Liver damage
Oxidative stress
Behavior problems
Synergistic effects
Altered brain activity



[Download EHT's Wi-Fi in School Factsheets](#)

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Protect The Ones You Love♥

*Our
goal is
to save
lives.*



Now Is The Time To Make A Difference.

