

Greetings,

I am writing to you today from the beautiful Southern Oregon, representing the Three Rivers School District in Grants Pass. My name is Kathy Mahannah and this is my second year as a district nurse. Because school nursing is so vast, complex and expansive, I have looked to the state for continued ongoing nursing support and guidance. ODE and OHA have been wonderful, yet are lacking the position of a registered nurse to provide ongoing, unified support to Oregon nurses. I strongly support bill SB 356, which will create a position of School Nurse Specialist in the Department of Education. School nurses are experts in health and bridge the gap needed to successfully and holistically care for students, staff and the community. I yearn for evidence based, consistent health and wellness guidance that is easily obtainable and usable. The School Nurse Specialist will provide guidance to school nurses throughout Oregon, collaborate with OHA, and help streamline ODE's efforts to provide quality access to education for all students, while keeping them healthy and safe.

Please consider bill SB 356, it will bring student education to a new level!

Sincerely,

Kathy Mahannah RN, BSN  
Three Rivers School District  
Grants Pass, OR.