



Testimony in Support of HB 2445 with the -4 Amendments

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Chair Greenlick and members of the committee: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2445 with the -4 Amendments.

The Oregon Nurses Association is proud to represent over 12,000 Oregon Nurses. Nurses make up the largest segment of Oregon's health care work force, and work in nearly every health care setting imaginable, from large hospitals to small local clinics, from corrections to school based health centers, and community-based public health.

HB 2445 would ensure school based health centers that are not included in a Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) are reimbursed on a fee for service basis when providing care to students who are Oregon Health Plan (OHP) recipients. OHP is a vital source of funding for Oregon's school based health centers, as they are not able to bill private insurance for a variety of reasons, including patient confidentiality. As we transform our health care delivery system in Oregon, we must ensure that existing programs that have demonstrated positive outcomes, such as school based health centers, do not fall through the cracks and are able to continue to serve communities across Oregon. The -4 amendments create an incentive pool to increase the number of school based health centers that seek to become a certified Patient Centered Primary Care Home, coordinate services and care with CCOs, and increase effective delivery of services to OHP eligible students.

ONA recognizes the important role school based health centers play for many Oregon students and believes school based health centers will also play a role in helping Oregon to realize the goals of health care transformation and achieve the triple aim. School based health centers focus on access, wellness, prevention, and chronic disease management, all of which are main components of Oregon's statewide health care delivery transformation. Not only do school based health centers work with students to provide care as needed, they educate students about health and wellness, helping each student to establish healthy life habits early on. A strong partnership between CCOs and school based health centers will serve all Oregonians well and will increase access to health care services for Oregon's students.

Adolescents are often reported to have the lowest access to health care service use of any age group, and are the least likely to seek care through traditional office-based settings. School based health centers see children who would not otherwise have access to care, help ensure students return to class more quickly, and can ease the demand on working parents. Many of Oregon's students currently rely on school based health centers for all of their health care needs. HB 2445 will help stabilize funding for these vital programs, incentivize each school based center to engage in Oregon's health care transformation efforts, and keep students healthy. It is imperative that we develop a funding mechanism for centers that are not yet part of their local CCO, encourage coordination, and ensure each school based health center can continue to serve their community.

ONA urges you to support HB 2445.