

I am writing in support of HB 2445. I'm a School Based Health Center Nurse Practitioner in Eugene. My name is Carol Matney, FNP, and I have worked in Eugene's SBHC for 14 years. Eugene's school district plans to close our SBHCs on July 1st. A major reason the school district has stated for our closure is that requirements to align with CCOs cannot be met and the funding is lacking, especially with Medicaid reimbursement. By far the majority of our youth seen for care in Eugene's health centers are either uninsured or on OHP.

Our funding is at a crisis point. Reimbursement for OHP at a fee for service level is essential for our SBHCs because our community's CCOs have not come forward to align with us and bring us into their organizations. There are conversations about this but beginning July 1st this option for health care for youth will be gone. Eugene School based health centers have provided care to children since 1986, with the first SBHC in the state at North Eugene High School. Our small SBHCs are working very hard to be in a position to fit into the changing health care system of CCOs. Without HB 2445 legislation passage, our district will certainly close the Eugene SBHCs, and once these are closed, kids in crisis will have the emergency room as the most accessible access point for care. This is a tragedy because youth WILL go to their schools' health centers for care. Youth

WILL talk to staff they can see in their schools. The future for schools without SBHCs are increased risk for youth suicides, shootings, and preventable crisis health care such as a ruptured appendix.

The cost of that ruptured appendix is \$45,000. The cost of a shooting or suicide cannot be measured.

Research shows that SBHCs decrease student absence rates and increase student academic success and graduation rates. Eugene 4J SBHCs are a health care safety net for youth and an asset to our community that should not be lost because of health care transformation.

Eugene 4J's small SBHCs have hard-working and professional staff who can meet the challenges of reform of health care, if given support and reasonable time to meet these challenges. I am very concerned about losing more SBHCs because of rules to pressure SBHCs to align quickly with CCO, and Patient Centered Primary Care (medical) Home (PCPCH) requirements.

This changing landscape of health care reform should not end Eugene's health care safety net for vulnerable children and youth.

Eugene SBHCs are now caught in the crossfire of national and state health care reform and the district pulling out because of the expenses of operating SBHCs. It is imperative that leaders understand the impact of health care reform as it affects SBHCs. Eugene SBHCs and mental health services at schools are an essential safety net for health care. HB 2445 will effectively address the funding crisis by allowing the fee for service for Medicaid reimbursement to continue. HB 2445 will promote flexibility and allow necessary time to meet new criteria for health care reform.

Please do not let youth be the victims of a reform movement in health care. Remember that since since 1986 a SBHC in North Eugene has effectively served youth and families who did not have other options for care. Please pass HB 2445 because it is essential in keeping our doors open to the vulnerable in our community, our schools.

