



**Washington County
Commission on Children and Families**

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JOINT WAYS AND MEANS SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Testimony in Support of SB 436 A – May 6, 2013

William Thomas, Washington County Department of Health and Human Services

Co-Chair Bates, Co-Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is William Thomas, and I am Director of the Washington County Commission on Children and Families. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 436 A on behalf of the Commission and Washington County Department of Health and Human Services.

SB 436 A would: 1) **provide a statutory framework for better aligning education and health care reforms** by encouraging Coordinated Care Organizations to include a strategy and plan in their health improvement plans for working with school health providers and the Early Learning and Youth Development Councils to coordinate health care delivery and improve the integration of services that meet needs of children, adolescents and families; and 2) **create incentive grants to CCOs** for implementing integration strategies and improving systems of services to achieve state health measures, like increasing adolescent well care visits from 21% to the 57% benchmark.

In Washington County we have seen the concrete results that occur when education and health care are better aligned. In 2006, our Commission and seven school districts determined that lack of access to health care was an increasing barrier to academic success for Washington County's 85,000 students. In response, we organized the Washington County SBHC Initiative. This effort has become a **cross-system collaboration** of more than 25 organizations representing education, healthcare, higher education, mental health and other key community partners, including our two community health centers, all four hospital systems and most recently Health Share of Oregon.

Over the past seven years our Initiative has opened **three new SBHCs**: Tigard High in 2008, Forest Grove High in 2009, and Hillsboro's Century High in March 2013. During this period, our partners have leveraged over \$5.5 million in public and private funding from 15 different federal, state and local sources, including \$1,500,000 in federal construction grants, which will enable us to open **two more SBHCs**, at Beaverton High in FY 13-14 and at Tualatin High in FY 14-15. At that point in time, children and youth in all seven school districts will have access to at least one new SBHC that offers **integrated prevention, primary care, mental health and dental services**, and which has a **sustainable business model** based on billing private and public insurances.

Our collaborative efforts have resulted in **identifiable and measurable impacts** in improved health outcomes for thousands of children and youth who have received high-quality healthcare services, and in terms of **return on investment** and **value added to our communities**. Without collaboration between the education and health care systems we could not have developed these five new SBHCs. **SB 436 A provides a statutory framework to incentivize greater alignment between education reform and health care transformation**. We urge the Subcommittee to fund implementation of SB 436 A and send it to the Senate and House floors with a Do Pass.