



HB 3517 Testimony

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maureen Hinman and I am the Policy Director for the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance (OSBHA), the membership organization for school-based health centers (SBHCs) across Oregon.

SBHCs work to keep kids healthy so they can learn and be successful in school and life. We know that the health of students affects test scores, attendance, classroom behavior, grades and graduation rates. We also know that there are health disparities among the children that this bill targets and that **when we talk about the Achievement Gap in education we are largely talking about the same kids that have health disparities.** HB 3517 allows the Oregon Health Authority the ability to provide medical assistance, within available funds to low income children residing in Oregon.

Currently school-based health centers work to address disparities by providing services that are culturally sensitive and respectful of family values and diversity - for all families, and all children, regardless of their ability to pay. However SBHCs are not present in all communities and so cannot reach all kids. OSBHA's vision is that all children and youth are healthy, learning and thriving. This vision does not change based on the circumstances in which a child lives.

OSBHA urges your full support of HB 3517.

Thank you,

Maureen Hinman
Policy Director
Oregon School-Based Health Alliance