



SB 337 Testimony

Chair Monnes-Anderson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Maureen Hinman and I represent the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance, the membership organization for school-based health centers (SBHCs) across Oregon. We believe school-based health care keeps kids healthy, learning, and thriving and that is why I am testifying in support of SB337. There are currently communities that are actively planning to open certified SBHCs in this fiscal year but it is unclear if there will be money in the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) budget to fund them at the level of other certified sites. I respectfully request that this bill be referred to Ways and Means to ensure that these new certified sites will be able to receive operational funding.

SBHCs are a public health model of a pediatric clinic in a school, and function through effective public-private partnerships. They are an integrated practice, providing primary, behavioral, preventive and mental health care. Some also provide dental care. They are a cost effective model, leveraging an additional \$2.40 of every state dollar invested from billing, grants, and other sources.

SBHCs have been actively participating in different aspects of health care reform, engaging with local Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) and working to ensure they have systems in place to be an effective provider within the transformation environment and help meet the triple aim.

We know that health coverage does not necessarily equal access to care, and because of their proximity and ability to build relationships, SBHCs serve as the first and sometimes only access point for quality, comprehensive care for young people.

SBHCs also will help Oregon as the education system works towards meeting the 40-40-20 goal. SBHCs provide a huge benefit to schools, usually at no expense other than the cost of the space. Health status and educational attainment are inextricably linked and it's not just because of increased seat time. When people are discussing the achievement gap and inequities in education, they are largely talking about the same kids that are suffering from health disparities. The genius of SBHCs is that they not only improve the health of students facing inequities, they improve their educational success as well by decreasing absenteeism and increasing academic achievement.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Maureen Hinman