

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/18/15

Action: Do Pass And Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference.

Meeting Dates: 02/23, 03/18

Vote:
Yeas: 5 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1.4 million to the Oregon Health Authority for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015 to establish 11 new school-based health centers. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Health status and educational attainment are linked
- Funding formula penalizes counties that invest in multiple school-based health centers
- Interest in planning by other counties
- School-based health centers are health care access points for traditionally underserved populations
- School district and parental roles

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

School-based health centers (SBHCs) have existed in Oregon since 1986 to provide physical, mental and preventive health services for children on school grounds. Primary care providers, mental health practitioners, and dental professionals are available to students. ORS 413.225 recognizes SBHCs as part of the safety net system of care.

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reports that as of January 2015, there are 68 certified SBHCs and nine planning sites. An additional eight more SBHCs will open during 2015. For 2013-2014, services were available to 52,466 students in 20 counties. SBHCs served 23,797 students, of which 43 percent of children were on Medicaid, 17 percent were on private insurance, four percent were on another public insurance and 36 percent had no insurance (or status was unknown).

In 2013, House Bill 2445 provided \$3.9 million in additional funding to SBHCs. The law increased the 2013-2015 funding formula from its 2009 levels. Counties with one certified SBHC receive \$60,000 per year and counties with an additional certified SBHC receive \$53,000 per year, per center. The local public health authority in each county provides the funds to support SBHCs. The specific expenditure of funds is a decision between the local public health authority and its partners. In the 2013-2015 biennium the SBHC State Planning Office awarded 14 communities, across 11 counties, planning grants for SBHCs.

OHA interviewed 26 counties regarding their interest in planning new SBHCs. Of those interviewed, 11 indicated they would be “very interested” and nine indicated they would be “somewhat interested” for the upcoming biennium. These counties projected a total of 22–25 potential new SBHCs.