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March 14, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE,
Room H-178,
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Committee Members,

As the executive director of a tiny nonprofit organization in the rural corner of Southwest Oregon, I want to state my support for the work the Oregon Youth Development does to improve education in our state.

Through my own participation in their grant funding process over the last few years, I have learned an enormous amount about how to work with our local schools and other organizations to create positive education outcomes.

The YDC's mandate to do Collective Impact work has been the driving force behind the establishment of our Illinois Valley Schools and Community Partners Group and gives us a framework for how to be together that is resulting in a lot more than any one of us could do simply working side by side. I have worked in our local schools for twenty years and never have I felt so confident that we can, collectively, improve our schools' climates and increase the amount of our students who succeed academically.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Rensenbrink".

Nicole Rensenbrink LCSW
Executive Director

Healthy U is a professional resource center that promotes personal growth, physical well being, and helps with life's challenges in a warm, confidential, and affordable manner.