



COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

March 28, 2107

To: Senate Committee on Education  
Fr: Morgan D. Cowling, MPA, Executive Director  
Re: Support for SB 111

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I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO), which represents the 34 local public health departments in Oregon. The Coalition of Local Health Officials supports SB 111, to meet Oregon's school nurse shortage.

School nurses are instrumental in the identification and referral to community resources for health risks and are often the only health professional who see students on a regular basis. In Oregon, without school nurses, districts must rely on classified staff, in many cases the front office secretary or educational assistants, to meet complex health care needs. It is against the law for anyone other than a registered nurse to delegate care for students while they are at school. This causes serious safety and health risks for students and their families; impacts school attendance and engagement; and poses an avoidable risk to school districts and their staff.

Students with access to a full-time school nurse are less likely to visit the emergency room, and are more likely to visit an appropriate health care provider if they have a medical referral from the school nurse. Additionally, schools that have full-time school nurses are more likely to have lower absenteeism rates.

The Coalition of Local Health Officials urges your support of this bill as one way to increase Oregon's school nurse to student ratio, and ensure that students across the state have access to nurse for their in school health needs.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.



For more information please contact Morgan Cowling, Executive Director  
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