



To: House Committee on Health Care
From: Richard Donovan, Oregon School Boards Association
Re: House Bill 3352
Date: April 11, 2017

Chair Greenlick and members of the House Committee on Health Care:

On behalf of OSBA's members, including 197 school districts and 17 community colleges throughout the state of Oregon, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 3352. OSBA supports HB 3352 as amended by the -2 amendments.

Schools and school districts throughout Oregon increasingly face challenges relating to behavioral health needs of students. Schools indicate that they are unable to address the causes of challenges facing the education system broadly, including chronic absenteeism, mental health challenges, behavioral needs, and many others. These challenges are just a few of the many that schools have to manage at a the main funding source for schools, the State School Fund, is not funded sufficiently to address all of these challenges. Schools are increasingly responsible for managing behavioral challenges that simply were not envisioned decades ago when the existing support structure was created.

House Bill 3352-2 addresses these concerns. It seeks to put valuable information in the hands of policymakers in a short amount of time to enable meaningful legislation in the future. Educators and school districts statewide lack the behavioral support students need, especially in areas of transition or change, where proverbial "gaps" exist for students to fall into. Delivery of services is crucial, and HB 3352-2 represents necessary first steps towards addressing existing shortcomings and gaps in services that limit students in Oregon.

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