



Date: April 12, 2017
To: House Health Care Committee, Chair Greenlick and members
From: Laurie Wimmer, OEA Government Relations
RE: *HB 3352 Dash 2s [Student Health]*

On behalf of OEA's 44,000 members, it is my pleasure to submit testimony in support of the dash 2 amendment to HB 3352, which seeks to evaluate the barriers, gaps, and challenges related to the provision of behavioral health services provided to our students.

We thank Rep. Mark Johnson for involving us in the development of his innovative concept of bringing the CCOs into the education world to help our students to succeed and thrive. We know that an incalculable number of education dollars are spent on health services in the school setting. When budgets are lean, this is particularly problematic and has, over time, led to the fact that Oregon has the highest student-to-school nurse ratio in the nation. Our students need both medical and psychological supports in their environments, and school is where they spend most of their waking hours.

Of note is the focus of HB 3352 on behavioral health supports. Across the state, our schools are experiencing an alarming rise in the number of incidents that impair the productive learning environments our students deserve. We have had reports from members that they are forced to clear classrooms and intervene in increasingly more disruptive behavioral events. Our students whose high "ACES" scores indicate trauma outside of the school need effective interventions and behavioral health services. As we have in the past with the trauma-induced pilot program bills, we are happy to embrace solutions to this phenomenon that may make the classroom safe and productive for all.

We welcome the collection of data as well as the closer collaboration of CCOs with our 197 school districts. As Oregon better understands the circumstances and needs of our students and the services to which they may or may not have access, a path may become clearer of the best way to address these issues.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and our support for the dash 2 amendments.