



**HOOD RIVER COUNTY**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 12, 2017

Re: Support of HB 3352

Committee members,

Thank you for your continued support of Oregon K-12 institutions in our efforts to improve important education and social outcomes for the future generations of Oregonians. The success of our public schools relies on your support in addressing the challenges that our students and teachers work to overcome in a classroom setting. One of these challenges is the increasing presence of behavioral health issues witnessed throughout K-12 spectrum and a lack of available resources to change this trajectory.

Behavioral health problems manifest themselves in a variety of ways. From debilitating depression and anxiety issues to explosive behavioral outburst, the spectrum of experiences in the classroom ranges. Teachers are trying their best to ensure minimal disruption for students as well as maintaining a safe classroom environment. But there isn't enough staff support to direct students experiencing behavioral health problems. School district budgets are stretched to the max, and while this is a vital service that needs to be provided, we can only contribute so much.

I support HB 3352 with the -2 amendments because it takes the first step in greater integration between the Healthcare and Education sectors. This integration will lead to better delivery of services within school districts and for students. Additionally, we will be able to track and measure the direct benefit from increased integration and delivery of services. Specifically, we will see reduced chronic absenteeism, increased mental health referrals to get students support they need to alleviate pressure on teachers, and decrease expulsions based on behavioral health.

HB 3552, with the 2 amendments, is an exciting step forward to explore innovative new ways for supporting our schools and improving on services. I strongly urge your support of this legislation and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dan Goldman, Superintendent

*Excellence. Every student. Every day.*

Superintendent Dan Goldman - 1011 Eugene Street Hood River, OR 97031 - 541-387-5013

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