



February 21, 2017

Dear Chair Monnes-Anderson, Co-Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance (OSBHA), I respectfully request your support for Cover All Kids- SB 558.

OSBHA is a nonprofit organization with a mission to strengthen school-based health services and systems that promote the health and academic success of young people. Schools are a foundational community in Oregon and it is essential that Oregon support the health of all members of this community. A community is healthy and resilient only when all members have access to necessary supports and services.

Health insurance coverage is one of the most effective ways to ensure that children receive the preventive health and medical care they need to thrive in school and life. **In Oregon, 2 percent of low-income children do not have any medical coverage even if income eligible.** These uninsured children must delay or go without essential health care.

SB 558 extends the Oregon Health Plan to all children residing in Oregon whose families earn up to 300% of the federal poverty line. This extension will ensure that **all** children have access to the health care services they need to be successful in school and in their lives. Additionally, SB 558 guarantees culturally competent outreach to newly eligible children and their families.

Access to health coverage and services results in lower high school dropout rates and an increase in college attendance and completion. SB 558 provides services to support all children in meeting these goals.

We hope that you will join us in support of Cover All Kids- SB 558.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurie Hoyt Huffman".

Laurie Hoyt Huffman, MS, LPC
Executive Director
Oregon School-Based Health Alliance