



March 19, 2019

Chair Salinas, Vice-Chair Hayden, Vice-Chair Nosse, and Members of the Committee,

RE: Children First for Oregon urges support of HB 3165

Children First represents the interests of Oregon's nearly 875,000 children and believes that together, with communities and leaders across the state, we can build a state where all children thrive. Through the development of the Children's Agenda we work with our more than 110 partner organizations to identify and elevate legislative concepts that will support the needs of Oregon's children. HB 3165 is part of the 2019 Children's Agenda.

The Legislature has made a big investment in time over the last year in the Joint Student Success Committee process, and is discussing ways to make a significant financial investment in our educational systems. We are very supportive of the effort to look beyond the traditional K-12 classroom by the Joint Student Success Committee to take a more holistic view of what our children need to be able to succeed in school. The needs are great, but strengthening the link between health and education is foundational, especially around supporting the mental health needs of students.

We know that one-size does not fit all, and HB 3165 provides school districts with the capacity and support to identify their needs, develop responses, and work towards sustainable support for health services.

School-based Health Centers (SBHCs) are an evidence-based and cost effective model for providing preventive, primary, dental, and mental health services in schools. However, we know that not all communities are able to develop SBHCs, but their students still need health services. HB 3165 allows districts and communities to identify how they can support the health needs of students in a sustainable and effective way.

Thank you very much for your attention. We request your support of HB 3165.

Sincerely,

Chris Coughlin  
Legislative Director