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April 18, 2019

RE: House Bill 5030—Reynolds School District School-Based Health Center

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of Reynolds School District's bond financing request for construction of a school-based health center.

Reynolds School District covers parts of Fairview, Wood Village, and my home city of Gresham. Like much of East Multnomah County, Reynolds students face economic challenges. Six in ten area renters are cost-burdened. Fully 10% of Reynolds students are currently experiencing homelessness. As a result, Reynolds students face greater physical and mental health challenges than their peers across the state.

There is tremendous need in East County, but these students are our future. I had the pleasure of visiting Reynolds Middle School over the interim this year, and I saw potential in every student. The district is among the most diverse in the state, with majority non-white students and over forty languages spoken

That is why I am so supportive of the School District's bond financing request. You are likely aware of the many benefits SBHCs bring to students and the community. An SBHC will fill a crucial gap for Reynolds students, allowing young people to access health care services during the day and reducing barriers to screening and basic health care.

Especially at a time when the Legislature is discussing how we can better address students' mental health needs, this project is a good investment for our state. Healthier students means a healthier community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carla C. Piluso
Oregon State Representative, House District 50