

Oregon School Based Health Alliance Testimony of Maureen Hinman HB4132 Student Health Survey

January 30, 2020

Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon School-Based Health Alliance (OSBHA) would like to express our support of HB4132.

Each of you knows the importance of data, and the importance of data to the process of making sure that our funds are invested in the most impactful way possible. At OSBHA, we have worked to gather data from our school-based health centers (SBHCs), from our efforts with Trauma Informed Schools, and many other projects over the years. When initiating any project with schools, we always rely on the School Health Survey. Unfortunately, not all school districts are able to participate.

This bill helps school districts, the State, and its hundreds of county, city, non-profit and foundation supporters gather the data necessary to inform and improve our joint efforts at providing high quality, relevant, and impactful services to youth in our communities. Perhaps most importantly, the data allows us to see existing disparities among subgroups such as black, brown, and LGBTQI+ youth so that we can better target services to those that will benefit most.

With mental and behavioral health concerns, suicide attempts, and trauma on the rise, this data is more important now than ever.

And with the passage of the Student Success Act, it is even more critical that we understand how to move the dial forward in an evidence based and data-supported manner. We need to improve our outcomes and data is critical to that effort.

Please support HB4132.

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Maureen Hinman Oregon School-Based Health Alliance Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives