



February 11, 2020

Chair Salinas and Members of the House Healthcare Committee,

The Oregon School-Based Health Alliance (OSBHA) is a statewide nonprofit organization with a mission to strengthen school-based health services and systems that promote the health and academic success of young people. We work to expand equity of access to healthcare for youth, which is an important social justice action linked to academic success and quality of life throughout the lifespan.

We enthusiastically support HB 4101, which requires the Oregon Health Authority to ensure reimbursement of health services delivered using telemedicine. Telemedicine is key to expanding care access, especially for those living in underserved communities. We believe that with adequate reimbursement rates, telemedicine will help close gaps in our current healthcare system. Sometimes for youth, telemedicine actually helps them feel more comfortable disclosing sensitive information, and can help them access providers that provide more culturally relevant services. Equitable telehealth reimbursement rates will allow us to explore the expansion of telehealth into school-based health centers and continue to increase access to care to those who need it most.

Thank you for your consideration,

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