



To: House Committee on Health Care
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: House Bill 2591
Date: March 18, 2021

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Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Salinas and Hayden, and members of the committee:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2591 as amended by the -1 amendments.

HB 2591 deals with School-Based Health Centers. Today, Oregon has 88 SBHCs, more than double the number of a decade ago. SBHCs are an efficient healthcare point-of-access for students who might otherwise not have consistent access to healthcare. And they are cost-efficient. Roughly 75% of the cost is paid by Medicaid and private insurance billings.

HB 2591-1 would allow up to 10 additional districts to apply to form an SBHC. It would also enable telehealth in a way that is federally compliant and allows for Medicaid reimbursement for some nursing services. And it would allow as many as three districts to begin the use of mobile SBHCs, to further address the ongoing needs of the school community, both in this time of pandemic and, hopefully, beyond.

Over the years, we have worked on SBHCs with many members of this committees, as well as many of your current and former colleagues, including Rep. Nancy Nathanson, former Sen. Laurie Monnes Anderson, and former Rep. Peter Buckley. Healthy students are students that can learn and succeed.

Thank you for your time. Please support HB 2591-1.