

Chair Prusak and members of the Committee:

I wanted to take a minute and thank you for allowing me to offer my support of HB 2591. My name is Lacey Beaty and like most of you I wear many hats. Before my current role helping Hillsboro School District work through a school nursing model pilot project, I was the Program Director for School- Based Health Centers at Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Centers, overseeing the operations of six School-Based health centers over two counties and five school districts. I have a long working history with Rep. Sollman the chief sponsor of the bill that goes back to when she was a school board member trying to figure out how to expand services to the students and families she was elected to serve.

COVID 19 has highlighted inequities that have long existed, especially in our healthcare system, and School Based-Health centers have often served as clinics of last resort for students. The data is clear that students that come from low-income families often have less access to regular health care and check ins.

School-Based health centers in themselves are hard to build and costly. They often go into schools where there is a lot of support from staff rather than where the greatest need resides. A mobile clinic that could be nimble and address students where they spend the majority of their day would be a force multiplier in services. Having a mobile site that would qualify for funding would allow student health services to be the center of the work, while removing the cost barriers and staff gaps.

I am excited to see this forward outside the box thinking about delivering services. For these reasons, I support HB 2591. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.