



Columbia Gorge

EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

March 18, 2021

Thank you Chair Presack, Vice Chair Hayden, and Vice Chair Salinas for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2591 (Student Based Health Center Grants) I am Pat Sublette, Superintendent at Columbia Gorge Education Service District. Two years ago we applied for and received a Student Based Health Center Grant. All of the communities in Wasco County were eager for the services of a student based health center. We gathered community partners, parents, students and specifically heard from Latinx and Native American parents when we conducted an assessment to evaluate the needs in our region. We found we need immediate, intermediate and long-term regional solutions. When we met with Latinx and migrant families we found they were pleased that providers are in the region, but they and their children were not able to access those services-because most don't serve children on the Oregon Health Plan.

Therefore, we are working to leverage the grant dollars and blend funding streams to write other grants and organize resources. We are initially hiring a Nursing Supervisor to work with regional providers and facilitate the provision of mental and physical health services via telehealth in schools while also working to align best practices in School Nursing. Our overwhelming need is for mental and physical health services. So that is what we are working to provide. Because we are working to support several small rural towns, access to a mobile health unit would allow all health services to be provided on school grounds in multiple communities and counties in rural regions. House Bill 2591 will provide 10 SHSPG grants for other small communities. It will support 3 telehealth pilots with school nurses to School Based Health Centers. It will also provide 3 mobile School Based Health Centers. As our students, parents and community partners have found, in Wasco County, like other rural communities, we need all of the solutions provided by House Bill 2591.

Thank you,
Pat Sublette
Superintendent,



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