

Submitter: Amanda Larsen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4070

Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee:

My name is Amanda Larsen, and I am District Nurse with Greater Albany Public Schools.

I'm writing in support of HB 4070, which provides critical resources that youth and families across Oregon need now. Oregon students have limited access to school nurses; 25% of districts have no school nurse and another quarter of districts have less than one full time school nurse. Since 2019, School Health Services Planning Grants, funded by legislation such as this bill, have improved access to school nursing services in grantee districts, and led to the creation of a School Nurse Pilot Program. This program has begun the essential work of defining what school nursing model can offer students.

There are so many things nurses do that can help contribute to the success of students in all grade levels. Recent data collected by the National Nurses Association (NASN) show a trend in the positive impact a school nurse can have on attendance rates. School nurses are able to use their professional training to provide a more thorough assessment of student concerns and determine whether they truly need to be sent home for health issues. The availability of this service helps keep students in school seats and learning. Furthermore, we provide support, outreach and education to families that helps improve long-term health and student ability to be present and focused in school.

I support this bill because it helps support improved school nurse presence and through this, helps support the attendance, wellbeing and success of our students.

Oregon students need access to school nurses and this bill will continue efforts to increase this access. I urge you to vote yes on HB 4070."

Thank you,
Amanda Larsen