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**STATE SENATOR**  
**District 17**



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

**Testimony in Support of HB 2729: School-Based Health Centers**

February 5th, 2025  
House Committee on Education  
3:00 p.m., Hearing Room B

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson & McIntire, and Members of the House Committee on Education:

For the record, I am State Senator Lisa Reynolds, and I represent West Portland and communities in Northeastern Washington County across the way in the State Senate.

But even more importantly, I have been a pediatrician going on 30 years, and I continue to practice when the legislature is not in session. As both a legislator and a pediatrician, I am in strong support of HB 2729 – not to mention as a mom!

We know that physical and mental health are interconnected aspects of a young child's overall development. The rise in mental health challenges that our students face deeply impact their ability to focus, learn, and succeed inside and outside of the classroom. It is crucial to their health and their lifelong outcomes that they have health services – both physical and behavioral – available when they need them, where they need them. And there is no better place to access these services as a kid than right at their school!

School based health centers offer a wide range of services our students need, including preventative healthcare, immunizations, contraception, screenings, and mental health counseling and referrals. We know that these services are crucial in identifying and addressing health issues early on, preventing them from becoming barriers to achievement and presenting lifelong challenges for our patients. I know it is a hassle and a disruption for patients and their parents to make it to off campus appointments - and sometimes that is the BEST option for youth. Still, many many services can be made more convenient if offered at an on campus health center. This bill would pave the next step in ensuring more of Oregon's kids have access to these vital school-based resources.

HB 2729 invests in our school-based health centers and will help ensure developing students and their families have access to comprehensive care that they need. I urge your support, and I thank my colleagues in the House for championing this bill.

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