

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amy Kingsbury, and I serve as a Social Skill Specialist in Lake Oswego. I have been in this role for 2, during which I have had the opportunity to provide essential health services to our students while collaborating closely with the educational team.

I am writing in support of House Bill 2423, which proposes the establishment of the School-Based Health Professionals Taskforce.

In my role as Social Skill Specialist, I am responsible for Provide direct service to students and family's to help support their mental health needs in a school setting. This includes but is not limited to: risk assessments (i.e. suicide), coordinating outside medical and mental health services, counseling related to IEP goals, and consultation with school staff around mental health and other services for students and families.. Over the course of my career, I have observed that current licensing requirements—despite their good intentions—do not always align with the unique needs of the school environment. For example, There are numerous daily occasions when I am unable to screen for suicidality/homicidality due to having to provide social skills groups 2x per day for 45 minutes a session. Additionally, having to do lesson planning for all these groups is time consuming which prevents me from providing services to students and their families.

This improves student access to essential services. The mental health needs of students, and their families, have significantly increased int he last few years. Mental Health Services outside of the school setting have significant wait lists that are preventing students and families from getting their mental health needs met in a timely manner, which is also why it is important for my mental health expertise and availability in the school setting..

Now more than ever HB 2423 needs to be passed so we as school professionals can focus on what's truly important- our Students!!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Amy Kingsbury  
Social Skill Specialist  
Lake Oswego