

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

My name is Jodi Peterson, and I serve as a Health Services Management Nurse Coordinator in Salem/Keizer . I have been in this role for 8, 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 Health Services Management Nurse Coordinator , I am responsible for Supervision of all districts registered nurses and LPN's. Medicaid billing nurse specialist. Immunization, dental, vision, communicable disease coordinator. Implementation of policy and procedure, daily workflow of the team and district, nurse for a school. The list is much more involved but overall health and safety of all students within SKPS. . 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, The experience with the licensing rule that has affected our work is that it does not meet the professional standards for the amount of nurses per school nurse caseload. The nurse student ratio for nurses is not at safe practices. Nurses working in a school setting work with school information systems vs electronic health records systems. We have overcome this barrier by creating tabs and documentation tools to meet the scope of our practice, but not sure all districts have that capacity. If there were electronic health records they would need to speak to school information systems. My licensing has also been different with rules on Medicaid billing for nurses. It is clear budgets are tight, but that should not impact the needs of students to ensure health and safety. .

This supports health and safety of students in the school setting.

This supports students and community health needs to the times we are in (more students with health, mental and behavioral needs than ever before). .

Registered nurses are an essential part of the health success of students in the school setting. It is vital to review policy, data and community need to allow legislation to meet communities with the need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jodi Peterson
Health Services Management Nurse Coordinator
Salem/Keizer