

January 30, 2019

The Honorable Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care  
Oregon Senate

Re: SB 130 - School Telehealth Services

Dear Senator Monnes Anderson:

On behalf of OCHIN, I would like to voice support for SB 130 which would allow the practice of telehealth in student-based health centers. This would be an important step towards expanding accessible health services in Oregon, beginning with the health of our children.

OCHIN is a healthcare technology nonprofit that helps provide community health centers and patients with health information technology in order to improve quality and access to care. Telehealth is one of the technologies that we and others in the health care community have embraced as one of the best ways to facilitate care for those who otherwise might not be able to see a physician in person.

Access to quality healthcare services will always be a priority for school systems and youth advocates. Telehealth and virtual care services are tools that will promote increased accessibility by eliminating barriers caused by proximity, finances, and time. By using innovative technology, we can bring medical professionals directly into our schools to support concerns that often exceed the capacity of standard in-school nurses. These include acute and chronic symptoms, as well as behavioral health issues.

Telehealth also offers a pathway to equitable health services regardless of any socioeconomic or geographic constraints that may be present for either the student or the school district. Given Oregon's diverse population, this should be a priority to ensure that all students are receiving care that is specific to their needs.

The educational success of our students is directly related to health factors, and we should ensure these factors are not being neglected when students are in the care of their school. For this reason and those illustrated above, OCHIN supports the passage of SB 130.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Stoll  
EVP, Government Relations and Public Affairs  
OCHIN