



ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

For more information contact Cherryl Ramirez at 503-399-7201

AOCMHP Testimony in support of HB 2224

School Support for Social, Emotional, Mental and Physical Health Needs

March 11, 2019

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of House Education Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), I am writing to express our support for HB 2224. As representatives of the public mental health system, community mental health programs (CMHPs) collaborate with their local schools to provide behavioral health services such as alcohol and drug screening, onsite therapy, consultations, case management, staff skills training, school-based parent education and support, and evidence-based prevention programs like Family Check Up, the Good Behavior Game and Sources of Strength.

Specifically, CMHPs are poised to contract with school districts to work directly with students and their families to serve their health needs and to provide training that supports student social and emotional development and promotes wellness, resilience, and suicide prevention. We also completely agree with creating a statewide data-sharing implementation team to eliminate data sharing barriers across systems and are enthusiastic about participating on this team.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2224 and we stand ready to enhance our partnerships with schools to improve the health and well-being of our students and their families.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez

Cherryl L. Ramirez
Director, AOCMHP