

# OREGON COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

February 3, 2020

Re: CLHO Supports HB 4132

Chair Doherty and Members of the House Committee on Education:

The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) represents the 33 local public health authorities throughout Oregon who work to protect the public's health by preventing the spread of disease and promoting health. CLHO supports HB 4132, the Oregon Student Health Survey Bill.

As the only source of statewide data on school climate and the health and well-being of Oregon students, this survey needs to be codified in law and supported with sufficient funding. The Student Health Survey provides essential data that help schools, local public health authorities and communities focus on community specific interventions that improve youth development, including: access to health and dental care; mental health; sexual activity and HIV/AIDS knowledge; school safety and bullying; housing security; nutrition and physical activity; tobacco, vaping, and substance use; healthy relationships and more.

CLHO supports HB 4132 for the impact it could have on maintaining a consistent, reliable data source on student health. Local public health authorities value the survey data to guide their community driven work to improve the health of youth as a vulnerable population. Local public health officials across Oregon use the data to engage community partners, and often work to assist their local school districts in interpreting, messaging, and using the data so that they will continue to participate in future surveys. The data also provides base-line and evaluation information required for grants, and supports data-driven decision-making when planning and evaluating programs for youth.

CLHO also supports amending HB 4132 to achieve the following: ensure the survey data reports are available to the public; keep local public health authorities across Oregon involved so they can provide their expertise in improving the content and distribution of the survey; and communicate findings from the survey in a community and culturally responsive manner.

CLHO urges the committee to adopt the amendment and vote yes on HB 4132.

Sincerely,

Morgan D. Cowling, MPA  
Executive Director  
Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials

