

March 9, 2021

TO: House Education Committee FR: Parasa Chanramy, COSA RE: HB 2368 Testimony

Good afternoon Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chair Neron, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Parasa Chanramy and on behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and our 2500 members across Oregon, we encourage you to adopt the -2 amendment and pass House Bill 2368.

This bill would require the Oregon Department of Education, in collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority, to create a pilot program focused on implementing trauma informed approaches.

Our members support additional investments in efforts, approaches, and programs that will help address the mental and behavioral health needs of our students.

We believe that HB 2368 will be complementary to the mental and behavioral health work happening throughout the state through the <u>Student Investment Account</u> and <u>Safe and Inclusive</u> <u>Schools</u>.

The proposed -2 amendment further enhances the bill by including culturally-specific community-based organizations, culturally-responsive practices, and strength-based approaches.

Our members deeply understand the connection between health and education and student success. And we believe that this connection must be supported by dynamic district and community partnerships that deliver a range of culturally-responsive mental health services and supports for our students.

Our students and schools need additional investments in mental and behavioral health now more than ever. We urge you to adopt the -2 amendment and pass HB 2368.

Thank you for your consideration.