



March 17, 2021

Oregon Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing today to express my support for House Bill 2591, which would allow mobile school-based health centers to qualify for safety net grants from the Oregon Health Authority.

We have been champions of this type of legislation for nearly two years, resulting from an analysis of healthcare needs in our school district over the first year of our current School Health Expansion Grant. After speaking with students, families, school staff, nurses, community partners and others, we felt confident that providing mobile health services at two of our neediest secondary schools would have a measurable impact on physical and mental healthcare access and improved attendance for students, among other benefits.

We were fortunate enough to have received a state-level school-based health center planning grant in 2009, and a federal implementation grant in 2011. Our school-based health center, sited on the Century High School campus, has been operational since 2013. Over the past eight years, we have seen how effective the school-based health center model can be. We've also seen that regardless of how much we promote the center's availability to all HSD students, it still tends to draw students and families primarily from the local community.

That is why we feel it would be so effective and efficient to supplement our school-based health model with a mobile unit that could visit other areas of our district on a set schedule. Having such a service would remove transportation and access barriers to the families and students who are most impacted, and who therefore need services the most.

We applaud the language of the bill that calls for pilot projects to test the model prior to large-scale implementation. We would be pleased and honored to serve as one of those pilot sites, but even if we were not selected, we feel the work is essential to the evolution of school-based health service delivery. As fewer block grants are available and the associated costs of constructing, siting, and staffing a fixed location rise, it becomes less and less feasible for school districts to explore the traditional school-based health center model. Mobile clinics are a logical next step for the future.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,  
Mike Scott, Superintendent