



March 18, 2021

TO: House Committee on Health Care
FR: Morgan Allen, COSA
RE: Testimony in support of House Bill 2591 with -1 amendments

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and our 2500 members across Oregon, we urge your support for House Bill 2591. As schools across Oregon prepare to reopen, ensuring that our students and communities have access to health care options is critical and this bill will provide resources and to ensure care for our most vulnerable students.

COVID 19 has been a painful reminder that many of our students and their families have limited access to health services and rely on school-based health centers and school nurses as a major resource to meet their healthcare needs. Our students and their families are experiencing upheaval and uncertainty never felt in most of our lifetimes. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a massive human and economic toll on our communities. Most schools are just now preparing for a return to in-person learning as vaccines become readily available to our staff; the vast majority of our students will have been away from their schools and classrooms for close to a year. All while Oregon's communities of color and those struggling to pay rent or put food on the table have borne the brunt of the challenges of the past year

HB 2591 will support help meet the needs of our students by providing more school health services that address the very different health issues of local communities by funding:

- Ten planning grants for school districts to do a school health needs assessment and then develop either a school nurse model or a school-based health center to meet identified health needs;
- Three grants for school districts to develop a mobile school-linked health center; and
- Three grants for school-based health centers to pilot, or try out, a telehealth model with school nurses that are located in a different school.

COSA urges your support for HB 2591.