

Hello. My name is Lori Perkins and I have been a district school nurse in Beaverton for 24 years. I was selected as the Oregon School Nurse of the Year in 2005. I am submitting my strong support for SB 356, which will create a position of School Nurse Specialist in the Department of Education. Since I began my school nursing career, I have seen my caseload grow, student health conditions become more complex, and an increase in health and education disparities among my students. School Nurses are the public health experts who support our school communities throughout the state, and we need more support. Our state understands the importance of creating evidence based, consistent health guidance for our students more than ever before. The School Nurse Specialist will provide guidance to school nurses throughout Oregon, collaborate with OHA, and help streamline ODE's efforts to provide quality access to education for all students, while keeping them healthy and safe.