

Hello,

I am writing to you today from the Beaverton area, representing the Hillsboro School District in Oregon. My name is Marci Heselwood and this is my 14th year as a district nurse. I have been and am an active member of both the state and national school nursing associations. School nursing is a very complicated area of medicine to work in due to the community focus, educational system, and medical systems all converging. I have looked to the state for continued ongoing nursing support and guidance along with my professional organizations. ODE and OHA have been wonderful and yet are lacking the position of a registered nurse to provide ongoing, unified support to Oregon nurses. Our state is not unified with a model for school nursing and the variation by district and locale make functioning as a school nurse very different depending on the supports around you.

I strongly support bill SB 356, which will create a position of School Nurse Specialist in the Department of Education. School nurses are experts in health and bridge the gap needed to successfully and holistically care for students, staff and the community. I yearn for evidence based, consistent health and wellness guidance that is easily obtainable and usable. 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.

Please consider bill SB 356, it will bring student health and education to a new level!

Sincerely,
Marci Heselwood, BSN, RN, TSPC certified School Nurse

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