

April 6, 2021

House Committee on Education

HB 2969 Letter of Support

Dear Chair Alonso Leon, Co-Chairs Neron and Weber, and members of the House Committee on Education.

On behalf of Samaritan Health Services and Intercommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization (IHN-CCO), Health Plans CEO Bruce Butler and I join in supporting HB 2969.

The bill will improve children's health by requiring that oral health be included in Oregon's K-12 health curriculum. Additionally, the bill protects the ability of IHN-CCO to continue the opportunity to support school-based oral health programs.

IHN-CCO provides coverage for children's oral health services, school-based programs help ensure that kids get screened and are referred to a dentist for timely care. In addition, dental professionals come to schools to apply protective dental sealants and to help coordinate needed follow-up care.

Providing trusted, convenient access to oral health education and services saves significant resources in dental-related visits to hospital Emergency Departments and reduces the risk of serious future health problems related to neglected dental care.

With no General Fund impact, HB 2969 incorporates dental care as a fundamental part of keeping kids healthy. We urge your support.



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