

February 13, 2023

To: House Committee on Education

From: Hannah, Registered Nurse

RE: Support for HB 2959

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Wright and Hudson and members of the committee–

My name is Hannah and I am here today as a Registered Nurse of 10 years, and I am here to express my support for House Bill 2959.

As a trained health professional in school, I am both licensed and practice within school systems and settings that can sometimes be in conflict with one another. We believe our students deserve the best possible educational journey at every turn and we know that the barriers that provide for these conflicting rules to our licensure are systemic, so we know the solutions will take long-term commitment and dedication.

The “EMR” that we have for our school was the most shocking documentation tool I’ve seen in my 23 years of being a Registered Nurse. It is very difficult to get an accurate picture of the students’ current health concerns, past medical history or notes on life threatening conditions without clicking through several pages. Documenting health room visits feels very limited and not intuitive. The medication module is cumbersome and challenging to understand and teach to UAP for their use. But by far the worst is how visits or documentation can be edited or removed very easily. Therefore not creating a paper trail or ability to be audited. It feels like adding a health component to the schools electronic information system was an afterthought and I can’t help but feel like it represents how the school district values the role of school nurses.

One clear concern expressed by members from all licensed professionals working in an education setting is the disconnect between requirements of licensure and the realities of practice in schools. That is why we need HB 2959, which will create a Task Force to examine

the scope of practice for each type of licensed health professional in schools, establish criteria to help define when procedures are inconsistent with scope of practice, and provide recommendations for alignment.

Thank you for your time today and I encourage the committee to vote YES on HB 2959.

Hannah

Registered Nurse

Central Oregon