

Submitter: Maureen Hinman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB575

My name is Maureen Hinman and I'm the Executive Director of the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance. Our mission is to center youth through the expansion of school health services that shatter health and education disparities, honor youth identities and voices, and prioritize their wellness and joy. One of the things we do as an organization is to work in partnership with school communities to convene and listen to parents, youth, community partners, and staff. During this process we frequently hear from families of students with disabilities about the challenges they face in advocating for their students to receive appropriate accommodations and supports. The impact of the pandemic on these families and students was especially detrimental, highlighting the disparities that already existed. We believe that these families, students, and the staff and organizations that work to support them need an accessible and intentional structure in which they can be heard. They also need to be involved in the development of a plan to meaningfully address the barriers to fully accessible education that exist. On behalf of the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance, I urge your support of SB 575.