

**3/16/23**

**Senate Education Committee**

**Re: Support SB 549**

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jun Orion and I'm a student at a 4J High School in Eugene, Oregon. Throughout my years in the education system I've seen students struggling with their physical and mental health. These battles through adolescence became even more apparent with the advent of COVID-19.

The first time I used a School Based Health Center I required a vaccine and couldn't find an appointment anywhere, but turning to my School Based Health Center I was scheduled quickly. From there I have caught up on some preventive-care needs that hadn't been met. I didn't even know I was behind on well-visits and vaccines until I met the nurse practitioner who became, and still is, a true partner in my health. School Based Health Center staff create a warm, welcoming environment - from being greeted with a warm smile, to meeting a provider who doesn't rush me, to receiving quality care I occasionally didn't even know I needed.

Senate Bill 549 will allow schools to continue the important work they do and allow new schools to offer more access to healthcare while reducing absences. For this reason, and more, I strongly urge you to pass Senate Bill 549.

Thank you,

Jun Orion

4J High School student.