

March 10, 2023
Senate Education Committee
Re: Support SB 549

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

My name is Chloe Acosta. I graduated as Valedictorian from Butte Falls Charter High School in 2022 and currently a student at Rogue Community College. I am also serving as a Legislative Advocate Intern with the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance.

I went to high school in Butte Falls, Oregon which is located in Jackson County. Butte Falls is a small rural town of just under 450 people. Living in a rural area that has many low-income families, many students and community members rely on school-based health centers for routine care. The school-based health center at my high school provides services such as doctors visits, telehealth visits, prescription delivery, dental treatment and mental health services.

The nearest clinic to us besides the school-based health center is 45 minutes away and the hospital is over an hour. I know many students at the high and elementary school that would not be able to receive healthcare otherwise due to transportation issues, parents not being able to take time off work and the cost of care as well as health insurance status.

Everyone deserves to have access to healthcare so I ask you to please pass SB 549. SB 549 addresses critical issues to help out our youth which we need now more than ever. With more funding, SBHCs can get more locations to help out the rural communities like mine.

Oregon youth need our help and passing this bill is a way to show you listen, care and hear our voices.

Thank you for your time,

Chloe Acosta