

# **Please Co-Sponsor the 2024 School Health Crisis Act**



## **Problem:**

- ✓ Schools are reporting record health and mental health challenges as students return to class
- ✓ Depression, anxiety and suicide ideation are interfering with academic success/attendance/school safety
- ✓ Less than 1/3 of Oregon districts have a school health center, which are able to leverage non-education dollars at a 4 /1 rate
- ✓ SBHCs will also help leverage funds for school nurses beginning in 2025
- ✓ SBHCs are the most cost-effective way to provide essential basic health and mental health resources to students - - and don't take money away from the state school fund or classrooms

## **Proposal for 2024**

- ✓ 10 two-year planning grants for districts to convene their community to establish SBHCs
- ✓ Mental health resources for schools with and without an SBHC / \$5.85 million
- ✓ \$10 million in Capital Bonding for SBHC construction
- ✓ Inflation adjustment to \$66,000 per SBHC per year (1st adjustment since 2011) to retain workforce

## **Return on Investment**

Real Dollars Leveraged:

**Leveraged non-school funding for 10 new school health centers (flexible model):**

**= \$5.280 million / biennium.**

New figures for **leveraged non-school funding for all 101 school health centers after SB549:**

**= \$53.328 million / biennium for school health.**

## **Savings from Improved Outcomes (Data Based):**

Reduction in anxiety/depression/suicide/lost classroom days/ plus better education outcomes:

= \$ millions of dollars/better outcomes/better staff morale-tenure-etc. Cost-benefit research suggests up to \$15 in social value and economic benefits for every dollar invested in wraparound services.

**Return on Investment = \$78.750 million in social/economic benefits**

Contact: Doug Riggs, [doug@nwpolicy.com](mailto:doug@nwpolicy.com)

**HB4070**