

February 4, 2024

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Re: Support HB 4070

Chair Noose, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chloe Acosta. I'm writing in support of HB 4070, which provides critical resources that youth and families across Oregon need now. I have been working with the Oregon School-Based Health Alliance since 2021. I am currently serving on their Board of Directors.

I graduated as Valedictorian from Butte Falls Charter High School in 2022. Butte Falls, Oregon is located in Jackson County. It is a small rural town of just under 450 residents. 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 (as there is no form of public transportation), 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 urge you to vote yes on HB 4070. HB 4070 addresses critical issues to help out our youth which we need now more than ever. 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