



Date: February 5, 2024

To: [House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care](#)

From: Parasa Chanramy, Coalition of Oregon School Administrators

Subject: Letter of Support for [HB 4151](#)-2 – Youth Behavioral Health Task Force

Good afternoon, Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and our nearly 3,000 members, we submit this letter of support for House Bill 4151, with the -2 amendment.

Last fall, our team traveled around the state to connect with education leaders and learn more about their current challenges and needs. No matter where we were, we heard about the need for more behavioral health staff and support services for our students.

We believe that this bill will help advance the state's goals around behavioral health, especially among our youth.

Our hope is that the Youth Behavioral Health Task Force will:

1. Leverage an [integrated model of mental health](#);
2. Help [shine a light on what's working](#); and
3. Identify where there are opportunities to grow when it comes to addressing the behavioral health needs of youth (0-18). For example:
 - a. Supporting our current and future workforce (preparation, recruitment, support, and retention) in the short-, mid-, and long-term;
 - b. Identifying systemic improvements; and
 - c. Bolstering a network of public-private partnerships across Oregon.

We believe that the work of this task force will be important in helping refine the state's focus and plan to support youth and families. We need a strong multidisciplinary network of people and providers that students and families can rely on for support – regardless of income, or zip code.

Please join us in supporting HB 4151-2.