



TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, East Multnomah County Schools
RE: HB 4070
DATE: February 5, 2024

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

I submit this testimony on behalf of the six school districts in East Multnomah County, as well as Multnomah Education Service District. Collectively, these districts serve nearly 40,000 students. I'm writing in favor of HB 4070. .

The following school districts in East County already have a school-based health center (SBHC) Parkrose, David Douglas, Centennial and Reynolds. Gresham-Barlow has a mobile unit and is in the process of constructing a brick and mortar center. The SBHCs in our region provide thousands of medical appointments to students each year, and they are a critical component of our service delivery system.

The funding included in HB 4070 will help ensure the stability of the SBHC model across the state, as well as help other districts pursue their first SBHC. The bill also includes new funding to support school-based mental health services, which are critically needed. We continue to see increased behavioral health needs among students post-pandemic and most districts lack the number of mental health professionals necessary to meet demand.

HB 4070 is a step in the right direction for improving students' access to physical as well as mental health support, and I urge your yes vote.

Thank you.