

Submitter: Barbara Hofford

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4070

Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee:

My name is Barbara Hofford, and I am a District Nurse for Douglas Educational School District.

I'm writing in support of HB 4070, which provides critical resources that youth and families across Oregon need now. Oregon students have limited access to school nurses; 25% of districts have no school nurse and another quarter of districts have less than one full time school nurse. Since 2019, School Health Services Planning Grants, funded by legislation such as this bill, have improved access to school nursing services in grantee districts, and led to the creation of a School Nurse Pilot Program. This program has begun the essential work of defining what school nursing model can offer students.

In addition to being a District School Nurse, I am an educator for NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. I support this bill because I have seen what a difference having professional nurses in our schools make in helping meet the mental health needs of our students which is HUGE>

Oregon students need access to school nurses and this bill will continue efforts to increase this access. I urge you to vote yes on HB 4070.

Thank you,
Barbara Hofford RN, District Nurse
Douglas ESD