

My name is *Corina Escobedo-Jones*, and I am a school nurse consultant for *South Umpqua 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.

I support this bill because school clinics/school nurses offer prevention and screening services to students, and students can access well-child visits, sports physicals, sexual health education, sick visits, and vaccinations. These clinics/ school nurses can also spot and report mental health concerns, even with same-day appointments. Students with chronic conditions such as asthma, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and diabetes can be cared for in the school environment, often with input from teachers who know them well. School clinics can increase access to health care overall for children. The location and availability of health care services makes it possible to address a wide range of needs and populations. School-based clinic/ school nurses visits are easier to fit into a busy schedule, which results in fewer absences from classes. Students can stay on track better with their academics because they do not have to leave school and are seen by school nurses. School-based vaccination programs provide a safe and efficient way to vaccinate children. This is important because vaccines help keep children safe from getting sick in the school environment and prevent children from bringing sickness home to their families.

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,
Corina Escobedo-Jones RN
South Umpqua School District Nurse Consultant