

Submitter: Margo Fultz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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I'm a school nurse with Multnomah ESD and I am very glad to have a nurse as a supervisor in my work. Having a nurse supervisor who understands nursing practice, difficulties, policies, etc has been invaluable. I have been in many situations in the schools where I need another nurse to bounce ideas off of, somebody to help me think through solutions to a problem, help with a diagnosis I'm not familiar with, etc, and having a designated supervisor whose job is to be available to help with this is crucial. In the schools, we work with the immediate needs of the students and this is rarely cut-and-dry bandaids or ice packs. Often the students are dealing with family issues, violence at home, undiagnosed illnesses, mental health, and other crises that we may not know about. We are in a unique situation where we can help families navigate the health system, find resources in the healthcare world, educate students and families about options, be a trained resource for school staff to call on in an emergency, and so much more. School nurses are crucial to student's health and the well-being of the students, families, and the community. Having nurse supervisors help us clarify our role, they back up our decisions, coach us if we are having difficulty with a situation, help us stand firm in our nursing decisions, and have a unique perspective for the building nurses.