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Date: February 3, 2025

To: House Education Committee

From: Parasa Chanramy, COSA

Subject: Letter of Support for House Bill 3169

Good Afternoon, Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee:

For the record, my name is Parasa Chanramy with the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators. Our membership organization represents 3,000 administrators who are school principals, central office administrators, and superintendents.

Our organization supports House Bill 3169. The bill directs the Oregon Health Authority to increase the grant amount for School-Based Health Centers to account for inflation.

As of September 2024, <u>there are 87 certified SBHCs across Oregon</u>. Our School-Based Health Centers provide students with important and timely medical care, behavioral health services, and – in some cases – dental care services, on school grounds.

Oregon's School-Based Health Centers are designed to help:

- Improve access to affordable quality primary care and mental health services for school-aged youth, regardless of insurance status
- Promote preventative care, and reduce costs related to unnecessary hospital stays, and use of emergency rooms
- Boost attendance and educational outcomes because healthy kids learn better
- Save parents and families time by reducing missed work hours because care is provided on school grounds.

We believe that increasing the grant amount for School-Based Health Centers will be critical to ensuring that we are able to keep up with the costs of providing vital health care services to students. In the long run, it is our hope that the state continues to grow investments in expanding the continuum of care and services for youth across our state, especially in service desert regions.

We urge you to vote yes on HB 3169.