

Feb 4, 2025

Chair Neron and Members of the Committee:

My name is Debi Stromberg, and I have been a youth leader for the past 20 years, serving both Creator Lutheran Church and the SE Portland Youth Collectives in the Clackamas and Milwaukie area.

Over 20 years I've seen a dramatic increase in the number of young people experiencing anxiety and depression, especially since the pandemic and particularly among young people of color, a rapidly increasing portion of our youth population. When young people express deep frustration with barriers to getting the mental health care they need, I've tried to assist, inevitably ending up frustrated myself with the lack of access for young people.

I strongly support HB 2729, offering evidence-based, easily accessible resources to young people. This bill provides a critical step toward addressing our state's inadequate mental health system by providing easy-to-access mental health support at a school-based health center (SBHC).

I'm doing my part to help young people find hope and stress relief, please do what you can by supporting this bill! I urge you to vote yes on HB 2729.

Thank you,
Debi Stromberg
SE Portland Youth Collective
Miawaukie, Oregon