

Submitter: Pamela Consear

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2729

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Pamela Consear, and I am a former longtime public school teacher. Many of my friends are currently teaching in the public schools in Portland and Beaverton.

I'm writing in support of HB 2729, which provides critical resources that youth and families across Oregon need now. Oregon is ranked 49th in the nation for youth mental health, and it's showing in our schools through rampant behavior issues and high rates of chronic absenteeism. HB 2729 provides evidence-based resources that will be quickly available for schools to support youth mental and physical health. A study conducted in Oregon found that youth are 10-21x more likely to seek mental health support at a school-based health center (SBHC) and that SBHCs that increased mental health capacity were 12% less likely to report a depressive episode; 16% less likely to report suicidal ideation; and 18% less likely to report a suicide attempt.

With so much anxiety from climate and political chaos, families are under even greater stress. Our students deserve all of the support we can provide them, and school-based programs are in the best position to help.

Thank you for supporting HB 2729 and, by extension, Oregon's young people.

Sincerely,
Pamela Consear
Portland resident