



Date: February 5, 2025
To: House Education Committee
From: Parasa Chanramy, COASA
Subject: Letter of Support for [House Bill 2729](#)

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 2729. The bill:

- Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to increase the grant amount for School-Based Health Centers to account for inflation.
- Requires OHA to contract with a non-profit organization with experience in facilitating school health planning initiatives and supporting school-based health centers in order to streamline planning, provide technical assistance, and improve coordination and continuity of care statewide.
- Expands grant opportunities for physical or behavioral health services; school-based mental health services; and substance use prevention, screening, referral and treatment services.

As of September 2024, [there are 87 certified SBHCs across Oregon](#). 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.



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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. The bill also expands grant opportunities around mental and behavioral health services, as well as substance use treatment.

As we have stated before, 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.

Thank you again for your time. We urge you to vote yes on HB 2729.