

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of [HB 2577](#)

February 6, 2025

Vice Chair Dobson, Vice Chair McIntire, and members of our House Committee on Education,

I write to you in strong support of HB2577, a bill to **increase access to telehealth in Oregon schools with a pilot project serving rural and frontier districts with linguistically diverse and hard to hire professional health care services.**

Youth mental health is at a crisis point in our nation and our state. I know that I am not alone in wanting concrete actions we can take within our education system to ensure access to mental health care. I believe this bill has the potential to deliver positive results and be scalable if it proves successful.

My understanding is that there is nothing in statute barring a local district from already pursuing this kind of telehealth service. In our hearings this week, we heard that the Oregon School Based Health Alliance is already working to increase telehealth services across the state. However, without a school-based health center in every community, I believe we still are under-serving children's mental healthcare needs, which is why I support HB3169, HB2729, and HB2577, to provide additional cost-effective solutions that increase access to critical services.

As leaders focused on accountability, I want to emphasize the **report** that the Oregon Health Authority would complete for this pilot program to let us know the extent to which it increased student access to health care services. It is so important for us to be able to **demonstrate that our investments are making a difference and for our rural, frontier, and linguistically diverse students**, I am hopeful that this and other investments make a meaningful change in access to care.

I urge your support for HB2577.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Representative Courtney Neron