

Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brie Leiblein, and I serve as a District Nurse in Oregon Trail SD. I have been in this role for 14, during which I have had the opportunity to provide essential health services to our students while collaborating closely with the educational team.

I am writing in support of House Bill 2423, which proposes the establishment of the School-Based Health Professionals Taskforce.

In my role as District Nurse, I am responsible for Triage nurse, case management, skills trainer and supervisor, emergency planning and writing emergency medical protocols and care plans for medically complex or fragile students, resident health expert for anything remotely health related within my school district and community. . Over the course of my career, I have observed that current licensing requirements—despite their good intentions—do not always align with the unique needs of the school environment. For example, The unfortunate piece of school nursing in Oregon is that often our district do not even know what we do. Most staff and students do not see the incredible amount of work that goes into keeping medically complex and medically fragile students safe at school. They also don't see or understand the need for all of the training and re-training and following up we do when a student requires skilled care at school, such as g-tube feeding and insulin administration. Often RNs are responsible for training and supervising dozens of unlicensed school staff in fairly complicated nursing skills that need to be done safely and correctly on a daily basis, and also being available on call for unusual situations. Having a licensing rule would help provide the health services scaffolding and support we need at the state level when we work as resident health experts in non-medical environments. .

This is not about workload, this helps professionals focus on students and improves student access to essential services. This is a proactive, common-sense solution..

I urge the committee to support HB2423 and its impact on students and health professionals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Brie Leiblein  
District Nurse  
Oregon Trail SD