

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

My name is Denise Cardinali, and I serve as a Lead District Nurse in North Santiam School District. I have been in this role for 19, 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 Lead District Nurse, I am responsible for coordinate the delivery of nursing related health services to students with medical needs, through educating of staff to provide care and through direct delivery of care by RN. 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, Administrators and clerical staff believe a nurse can deliver any and all medical care. I have had to direct them to access care for students that is within the scope of licensure for Physical and Occupational Therapist. There is a significant lack of understanding of the different roles of different health care providers in the school setting.

Ensuring that licensure and different scopes of practice is understood in the school setting provides for timely safe care in the school setting. Allowing students to access their education. The practice acts are very complex and we need individuals with expertise in the various licensing and practice acts to translate this information into a framework that assures that students receive safe, appropriate and timely care..

I strongly urge the passage of this legislation to support the health of students in the school setting by various licensed health care professionals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Denise Cardinali  
Lead District Nurse  
North Santiam School District