

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

My name is Cielle Lucas, and I serve as a Registered Nurse in Eugene School District 4J. I have been in this role for 3, 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 Registered Nurse, I am responsible for Registered nurse assigned to 3 schools, responsible for health management plans, staff training, medication management, and student and family care coordination, along with running the health rooms. . 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, My work as a nurse at a school is wildly different than in a clinical context. I am the sole medical provider at those locations and have to make independent decisions with minimal access to the ordering providers, and although this is technically in the realm of nurse scope, it is so unique to all other clinical training and experience and how things operate in schools needs to be addressed and applied specifically to the school setting. Because the licensing standards aren't tailored to this setting, I have seen many nurses leave within the first 3 months because they feel like it's risky to their license because either there are areas of practice that aren't clear or there are so many regulations in other areas that providing proper, safe care requires so many unnecessary steps and delays or prevents the support students truly need. .

This helps professionals focus on students – Aligning licensing rules with policy and practice in the school setting will remove barriers, allowing providers to deliver care effectively.

This allows licensing boards and policymakers to thoughtfully review and adjust their rules – Creating an opportunity to ensure policies align with real-world school settings..

I urge you to support HB2423 so that Oregon's licensing boards can establish clear, appropriate guidelines for school-based health professionals, improving both professional retention and student access to necessary services.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cielle Lucas
Registered Nurse
Eugene School District 4J