

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

My name is Casey Krieg, and I serve as a Program Specialist in Marylhurst/ CESD. I have been in this role for 18, 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 Program Specialist, I am responsible for support school counseling staff in program model, case consultation and crisis management. 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, I am an LCSW. At times, the other duties assigned interfere with my the ethical obligations of my clients. My license requires me to help clients in crisis cope safely. School counseling staff are requires to teach twice daily social skills classes often making them unavailable to help people actively experiencing crisis. They are often required to stay after hours or respond to emails during noncontract days. Also we are not able to diagnosis clients within our setting and this can prevent students from accessing needed services like Development Delays. This can create huge frustrations because instead of using our license to connect students to needed services we have to find outside providers often at a cost to the family..

This improves student access to essential services – Aligning licensing rules and exploring legislative fixes ensures students get the care they need without unnecessary obstacles..

It is vital that we examine the role of healthcare providers in school and make regulations that clarify the role and allow health care providers to provide the care their license requires we give. It would assist professionals in getting the care their students and families need and remove unneeded obstacles.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Casey Krieg  
Program Specialist  
Marylhurst/ CESD