



March 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Written Testimony in Support of HB 2423

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

My name is Jamie Smith and I have the privilege of leading the Multnomah ESD's School Health Services department that serves almost 100,000 students across 8+ districts in the Multnomah County region. We employ over 75 nurses and over 80 School Health Assistants to support our partner districts in removing health-related barriers to education. We are pleased that our department has a 50-year history of providing these necessary services.

We support **HB 2423**, which will work towards ensuring that health professionals are practicing in alignment with their licenses and allowing the licensing boards to become more familiar with the unique conditions that practicing in the educational setting creates for health professionals. We would recommend that the bill be amended to include an educational administrator representative on the Task Force so that alignment can also be achieved related to education-specific statutes, rules and practices.

In my 19 years of school nursing in Oregon, I have worked with countless numbers of school health professionals (occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, school psychologists, school counselors and mental health providers). We have all experienced similar challenges in adjusting our practice for the educational setting with a lot of autonomy and without much guidance. The uniqueness of our various scopes of practice differ from a clinical setting, and we believe that our licensing boards should consider whether adjustments need to be made to continue to ensure safety for both their licensees and the public that we serve.

We are especially excited for the potential of the Task Force examining 'electronic health records systems' that can contribute to efficient Medicaid reimbursement. One of the key recommendations of the School Medicaid Pilot Project (SB 211, 2017) was to invest in statewide technology for efficient



and accurate school Medicaid billing. MESD stands ready to provide input into this concept when the Task Force is ready.

In conclusion, **HB 2423** will provide a critical opportunity for school health professionals and their respective licensing boards to discuss the unique practice in the educational setting. I hope that you can support this bill to help Oregon schools provide safe, effective and professional healthcare for students.

Thank you for considering this testimony. Please let me know if I can answer any questions or provide additional insights based on my experience.

Respectfully,

Jamie Smith

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