



**LISA FRAGALA**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 8  
FROM THE WILLAMETTE RIVER TO SPENCER BUTTE  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

March 12, 2025

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

For the record, my name is Lisa Fragala and I serve as the State Representative for House District 8. I am speaking today in support of HB 2423, which will establish a School-Based Health Professionals Taskforce to ensure that licensing board regulations make sense in an educational setting.

Licensing requirements are often written with hospitals and clinics in mind, leaving school-based health professionals to navigate rules that do not reflect the work they do in schools. This task force will create a structured process for licensing boards to review their regulations with an educational lens and make necessary adjustments to better support school-based professionals and students.

Licensing standards that do not reflect the realities of school settings create unnecessary barriers for school-based health professionals, making it harder for them to provide timely, effective services to students. It also creates challenges for recruiting and retaining qualified professionals, such as nurses, speech-language pathologists, and occupational therapists, at a time when Oregon's schools are facing a shortage of school-based health professionals. Making licensing requirements more appropriate for school settings will help attract and retain professionals. It will also allow professionals to spend more time supporting students rather than working to navigate conflicting or unclear licensing rules.

School-based health professionals serve students with a wide range of needs, from routine medical care to specialized interventions, and play a key role in identifying and addressing health-related barriers to learning. Making sure licensing rules align with school settings will help serve students more effectively and avoid students experiencing delays in receiving critical services like speech therapy, occupational therapy, nursing care, and mental health support. Clarifying licensing rules will help ensure that all students, regardless of their school or district, have equitable access to health services that support their ability to learn and thrive.

HB2423 creates an opportunity for licensing boards to work directly with education stakeholders to ensure their rules make sense in school settings. By aligning licensing requirements with the realities of school-based health care, we can strengthen Oregon's school health workforce and improve student access to essential services. I urge the committee to support HB2423 to create a licensing system that truly works for both school-based health professionals and the students they serve.

Sincerely,

*Lisa M. Fragala*

Representative Lisa Fragala  
House District 8

