



March 27, 2025

TO: Chair Hartman and members of the House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Jessica Pratt

RE: Support HB 2374-2

Dear Chair Hartman and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties, representing Oregon's county governments, I am writing to urge your support for HB 2374-2 to foster a positive school-to-home connection that promotes school attendance and the well-being of children and families by establishing the CARE program.

County boards of commissioners are the Local Mental Health Authority and Local Public Health Authority, with the duty to administer Oregon's mental health and public health policies, adopt local plans to serve community needs and provide oversight and accountability of our state-county shared services.

Truancy is a problem in communities across Oregon and is often a symptom of unmet basic needs in a child's home. Chronic truancy causes children to fall behind in their foundational learning.

With the unprecedented demand for behavioral health services and our crippling workforce shortage, Oregon cannot afford to let these children and families fall through the cracks. HB 2374-2 is an opportunity to strengthen families before they fall into deeper crisis and ill health and put these children on track to contribute to a robust workforce in the coming years, simply by reaching out and connecting them to resources that are already available.

The Association of Oregon Counties asks for your support for HB 2374-2 and we thank you for partnering with counties to serve all of Oregon.

Jessica Pratt
Legislative Affairs Manager
Association of Oregon Counties