

Submitter: Shaelyn Bangs

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB920

Dear Chair Nosse, Co-Chairs, and committee members,

My name is Shaelyn Bangs, a 15 year old Freshman in Clatsop County. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 920 but respectfully request an amendment to include pediatric behavioral health in the language of the bill.

As currently written, SB920 directs the Oregon State University Extension Service to oversee a project to accelerate the promotion of behavioral health in Oregon through convening committees, facilitating community conversations, and supporting follow-up actions. It's much needed, I am concerned that pediatric behavioral health may be unintentionally overlooked by some regions without specific mention.

Pediatrics often takes a backseat in conversations, where Oregon's urgent and visible needs, such as houselessness and drug use, are often first in behavioral health conversation. In Clatsop, we rank highest in homelessness per our population, so a lot of necessary attention goes towards that. However, children and youth are also experiencing a mental health crisis as well, one that deserves lots of focus too. Currently, Oregon ranks almost last in pediatric mental health for the level of assistance available to serve the needs of us kids. By including the word, pediatric, in SB920, you can help ensure that children's behavioral health needs are not lost during conversations, and that local committees and community meetings will include pediatric professionals and stakeholders.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. I would be grateful for your consideration of this amendment.

Sincerely,  
Shaelyn Bangs