

01/28/2025

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Bonnie Schrouder, and I am currently serving as the District Nurse for South Lane School District, overseeing the health services in seven schools. I have been a nurse for 17 years, with this being my first year in school nursing. I am writing to express my unwavering support for House Bill 2948, as it directly addresses the challenges that I have faced in my position and speaks to the critical needs of school nurses across the state,

From the outset of my role, I have encountered significant obstacles that have hindered my ability to provide effective care to the students in my district. I received no in-person training, no training manual, no procedures or policies, and no instructions on our electronic health record system. In fact, my job description was provided to me only recently, and it was written without any consultation with me or the health aides I oversee. I have been forced to navigate this role with minimal direction, which has created a difficult and ineffective working environment.

Additionally, when I inquired about the certifications and licenses of the health aides I oversee, I discovered that none had been asked to provide them by the non-medical supervisor, and one of the health aides reported that the cost of fingerprinting had been deducted from her paycheck, yet she was never fingerprinted. These oversights are concerning not only from a legal and regulatory standpoint but also in terms of maintaining the integrity and quality of care for our students.

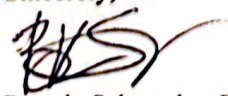
Furthermore, when I began in August, I was confronted with a lack of preparedness regarding emergency equipment. Most of the defibrillator pads had expired, the batteries were dead, and the lifesaving epinephrine and Narcan were both expired in nearly every school. The district had no inventory process in place for medical supplies, which is unacceptable for a role that is responsible for student health and safety. Recently, my request for personal protective equipment and first aid supplies was denied, despite the fact that these supplies are critical for maintaining a safe environment. My supervisor dismissed the request, claiming the funds were already exhausted due to the replacement of emergency equipment, yet no alternative solutions were offered. This has left me in the difficult position to cover these essential costs myself, which is unsustainable and highlights the urgent need for the provisions outlined in House Bill 2948.

It is clear that the current policies, which do not reflect the role of the school nurse or align with state-mandated requirements, are inadequate. My concerns, when raised, have been repeatedly dismissed by district administration, which is unfamiliar with healthcare practice and protocols. This lack of support, guidance, and acknowledgement of the importance of my role has caused unnecessary hardships and compromised my ability to perform my duties to the best of my ability.

The struggles I have outlined here are not isolated incidents; they are indicative of a system that is ill-equipped to support the health and safety of our students, with the potential to negatively impact their academic performance. House Bill 2948 offers a solution to these ongoing issues by ensuring that school nurses are not under the supervision of non-medical personnel, enabling them to be properly supported and empowered to do their jobs autonomously.

I wholeheartedly support House Bill 2948, as it will provide the framework necessary to protect the health, safety, and well-being of students in our district and across the state. Thank you for considering my testimony in support of this legislation.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Schrouder, RN  
South Lane School District Nurse