



PRESS RELEASE

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House Passes HB 2591 to Expand Healthcare Access for Students Across the State

HB 2591 A will expand healthcare for students across Oregon by funding ten school-based health centers and school-based telehealth grants.

SALEM – Today the House passed [House Bill 2591 A](#), which will fund grants for school-based health centers, school nurses, and a telehealth pilot to expand healthcare access for students across the state, while allowing schools the flexibility to provide healthcare in the best way for their students.

The bill requires the Oregon Health Authority to provide ten planning grants for school districts to do a school health needs assessment and then develop either a school nurse model or a school-based health center to meet identified health needs; three grants for school districts to develop a mobile school-linked health center; and three grants for school-based health centers to pilot, or try out, a telehealth model with school nurses that are located in a different school.

“To learn and thrive, students need their basic needs met. Quality, accessible physical and mental health care is a basic need, but many rural students, low-income students, and students of color have no other link to effective healthcare,” said [Rep. Rachel Prusak](#) (D-West Linn), co-chief sponsor of the bill. “This year our students are facing new levels of trauma, anxiety, and stress, and we have to do everything we can to support them.”

Although school nurses have been instrumental in supporting students through the challenges of COVID-19, only 25% of school districts in Oregon have SBHC, and around 40% school districts in Oregon do not provide any school nursing services.

“When the Hillsboro School District came to me with an idea to improve services for their students I wanted to find a way to help,” said [Rep. Janeen Sollman](#) (D-Hillsboro), co-chief sponsor. “Mobile facilities and telehealth options will expand the reach in our larger districts and help rural districts cover their large geographic areas. This is a win-win, especially considering that SBHCs are one of the best investments the state can make.”

HB 2591 A, which passed 54-4, is now headed to the Senate for consideration

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