



Office of Representative Hai Pham, DMD

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Representative Pham Prioritizes Investments to Address Oregon's Youth Mental Health Crisis**

*HB 2729 invests \$7 million to expanded behavioral and mental health care for students*

**SALEM, Ore.** - Today, the House Committee on Education passed [HB 2729](#) to expand critical services and advance mental and behavioral health funding for Oregon School-Based Health Centers. This bill focuses on increasing access to mental and behavioral health care and addresses these growing needs.

“Our youth are in a mental health crisis,” **said Rep. Hai Pham (D-South Hillsboro, SW Beaverton)**. “It’s time that we prioritize our youth by investing in mental and behavioral health to save lives.” Oregon [ranks 46th in the nation](#) for mental health disorders, with alarming rates of anxiety and depression.

School-Based Health Centers are an essential community tool which support youth health and well-being. HB 2729 invests \$7 million, in alignment with the Governor’s Recommended Budget, to schools across Oregon to improve mental health services, substance use prevention, screening, and treatment services. This bill will ensure that our K-12 education system is preparing and supporting our youth for a lifetime of success.

“At a time when we need to do everything we can to address absenteeism, increase academic outcomes, and ensure strong communities, School-Based Health Centers are a critical part of a broader solution,” **said Rep. Courtney Neron, (D-King City, Sherwood, Tigard & Wilsonville), Chair of the House Education Committee**. “These investments and services keep students in school, improve educational outcomes, provide access to care, and even create jobs.”

Currently, there are 88 state-certified School-Based Health Centers across 28 counties in Oregon. In 2024, [47% of visits](#) to School-Based Health Centers were for behavioral health needs. The bill is now sent to the Joint Committee Ways and Means for consideration.

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