

Janna Johnson, LCSW
School Social Worker, Reynold High School
HB 5534 Oral Hearing Testimony
May 7, 2021

Co-Chair Hovey and Girod Members of the Capital Construction Sub-Committee,

My name is Janna Johnson and I am the school social worker at Reynolds High School and have had the privilege of serving our families and students for over fourteen years.

In 2019, I had the pleasure of testifying in support of a Student Based Health Clinic at Reynolds High School. Today, I welcome the opportunity to say thank you and ask for your continued support.

In my last testimony, I spoke to the barriers our students faced in accessing health care. The questions of "Where do I go to see a doctor?" "How do I get there when I have no transportation?" or "I don't have money or insurance" were common phrases I heard from students and families when talking about their healthcare needs.

I am pleased to announce with the opening of the Reynolds Student Based Health Clinic, we are reducing these barriers. Students are being seen for same day appointments. They are receiving their school vaccines in record time. The prior concerns of being uninsured or the cost of health care? They are not a barrier anymore. Because of your support, students are now accessing their health care immediately and improving their quality of life.

The success of the health clinic is even more evident as we are now in hybrid learning. After class, students are now walking down the hall to the clinic to be seen immediately. Just yesterday, a student told me she was a year overdue to see a doctor for a significant and major health condition. Because of transportation, insurance, cost, and time, she hadn't been able to see a doctor sooner. But with our new clinic -- in our school - an appointment she needed for over a year, she was able to complete that afternoon. This is the success of our student health clinic.

In addition to supporting our 2700 students at the high school, the clinic supports our three communities of Troutdale, Wood Village and Fairview, as well as the three middle schools and nine elementary schools in our district. With your ongoing support, we can continue to close the gap and provide equitable health care for our East County students and families.

Thanks to your funding, I can now provide a direct and easy answer when asked, "Where do I get tested for Covid?" or "How do I schedule an appointment with a doctor?" My answer is **your** student health clinic down in the 500 hall.

Thank you for investing in our students.