



## SB 549: SCHOOL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE ACT

# HOW TO WRITE A LETTER OF SUPPORT

Letters of support are an effective form of communication to legislators when advocating for a bill. To pass the Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act, we need as many letters of support as we can get.

A good advocacy letter is one that is values driven, states a problem clearly, advocates for a solution, encourages support for the solution, and expresses gratitude. By using the sample letter template, you can craft an effective letter.

Please take the time to draft a letter. We'll take care of distributing it to the right legislators, committees, etc.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Review the sample letter of support template (see next page)
2. Draft your letter on letterhead.
3. Convert your letter to PDF format.
4. Submit your letter via OLIS:  
<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Testimony/SED/SB/549?area=Measures>
5. Submit your letter by March 16, 2023. (Note: there may be another call for letters of support after this date.)
6. Reach out to [maureen@osbha.org](mailto:maureen@osbha.org) with questions at any point!

# SAMPLE LETTER TEMPLATE

(INSERT LOGO/LETTERHEAD IF FROM AN ORGANIZATION)

March 1, 2023

Senate Education Committee  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Committee Members::

RE: SB 549 – School Health Crisis Response Act

(NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION) asks you to pass SB 549, the School Health Crisis Response Act. There is a youth mental health crisis in Oregon and your support is critical to ensuring that youth and families are able to fully access the education that every child deserves.

(INSERT SHORT PARAGRAPH THAT DESCRIBES YOUR ORGANIZATION: include details such as your mission, services that you provide, and the communities that your organization serves)

(INSERT SHORT PARAGRAPH THAT HIGHLIGHTS THE CHALLENGES YOUTH ARE EXPERIENCING FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE. PROVIDE A PERSONAL EXAMPLE WHEN POSSIBLE: Examples: depression, suicidal ideation, covid-related social isolation and anxiety, barriers to accessing healthcare, not feeling safe in schools, disparities, hard to get appointments, etc.)

(INSERT PARAGRAPH THAT DESCRIBES HOW THE SCHOOL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE ACT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION AND THE COMMUNITIES YOU SERVE: Please choose some or all of the following components of the bill to describe how they would help you personally or help your organization meet its mission and serve youth and the school community. You do not have to speak to every part of the bill – focus on what you know.

- The services proposed in this bill are evidence-based and equitable approaches to addressing the mental health and behavioral issues that are impacting kids and the school environment.
- The pandemic shined a light on the disparities that already existed for Black, Indigenous, and People/Youth of Color. School health resources provide affordable and accessible care for everyone, and support kids so they are ready to learn.

- For every dollar the state contributes, SBHCs earn \$3-4 through billing, grants and local funding. That combined funding allows SBHCs to provide services at no cost to students and effectively leverages health funding to improve learning outcomes.
- Healthy kids learn better. School health services support educational success.
- School health services can be customized to meet the specific needs of a school community. They exist in urban, rural, and frontier counties. Combining a thorough assessment process with the flexibility for local control leads to the creation of services that are effective and sustainable.
- Oregonians want, need, and deserve excellent schools for all students. Community Schools provide each and every student with the resources, opportunities, and support that make academic success possible and that create strong ties among families, students, schools, and community.
- [A research review](#) by The Learning Policy Institute and National Educational Policy Center concluded that well-implemented community schools lead to improvement in student and school outcomes and contribute to meeting the educational needs of low-achieving students in high poverty schools. Strong research reinforces the efficacy of integrated student supports, expanded learning time and opportunities, and family and community engagement as intervention strategies.

(I or NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION) appreciate your consideration of SB 549. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(INSERT SIGNATURE AND TITLE)