TO: Oregon Education Investment Board
FROM: Kasandra Griffin, Upstream Public Health
DATE: May 8, 2012
RE: Health in Education

UPSTREAM PUBLIC HEALTH

Dr. Spilde and Members of the Board,

My name is Kasandra Griffin. I am the Policy Manager for School Health at Upstream Public Health, a statewide organization focused on policy solutions to health problems. We are proud to be a part of the Healthy Kids Learn Better Coalition.

I am here today to repeat my prior request that you do everything in your power to integrate health into education reform. Health and education are mutually reinforcing: Healthy students do better in school, and people who succeed in school have better lifetime health outcomes, including longer lives and lower health care costs. Yet statewide health and educational outcomes are both declining, rather than improving. We need to do better.

We were excited to see attendance included in the achievement compacts, and we are excited to see the Governor's health reform moving forward.

As you move into the investment portion of your responsibilities, I want to urge you again to recognize how critical student heath is to your success, and invest accordingly. I have an updated list of three specific requests for you.

1. My first request is that you tell your new Chief Education Officer that health is important to you, and ask that person to work closely with health reform leaders to integrate the two efforts.

2. My second request is that you prove that this is important to you by creating a subcommittee of this board focused on student health. More specifically, it would be focused on understanding and addressing the health-related barriers to learning.

3. My third and biggest request is that you consider student health as you start considering our statewide investments in education. Your unenviable job is to figure out how to do more with less. One big way to do that will be through working with the health reform efforts to get more *health* resources to our students, so that they are healthy and ready to learn.

Thank you for your attention and your service.

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