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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1225**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2021 Regular Session**

**By** House Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Stonier, Bateman, Lekanoff, J. Johnson, Davis, Cody, Santos, Thai, Ortiz-Self, Ormsby, Valdez, Riccelli, and Tharinger)

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting school-based health centers; adding  
2 a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

5 (a) Research shows that school-based health centers provide a  
6 crucial link between health and education, improving outcomes for  
7 students in both areas;

8 (b) Health and academic disparities are increasing during the  
9 COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for students of color;

10 (c) School-based health centers advance equity by providing  
11 health care access and support at schools;

12 (d) School-based health centers have been operating across the  
13 state for more than 30 years;

14 (e) Local control and decision making for school-based health  
15 centers is important; and

16 (f) In 2016, the legislature created the Washington integrated  
17 student supports protocol as a strategy to close educational  
18 opportunity gaps through school-based coordination of academic and  
19 nonacademic supports for students.

20 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to create a school-based  
21 health center program office within the department of health to award

1 grants and coordinate with other agencies and entities to provide  
2 support, training, and technical assistance to school-based health  
3 centers.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The school-based health center program office is established  
7 within the department, with the objective to expand and sustain the  
8 availability of school-based health center services to K-12 students  
9 in public schools, with a focus on historically underserved  
10 populations.

11 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
12 specific purpose, the school-based health center program office  
13 shall:

14 (a) Develop funding criteria and metrics for monitoring and  
15 evaluation in partnership with a statewide nonprofit organization  
16 providing training and technical assistance to school-based health  
17 centers;

18 (b) Award grant funding for school-based health centers. The  
19 department may grant funding for the following purposes:

20 (i) Planning a school-based health center;

21 (ii) Start-up costs associated with setting up a school-based  
22 health center; and

23 (iii) Ongoing costs of operating a school-based health center;

24 (c) Monitor and evaluate school-based health centers that receive  
25 grant funding from the program office;

26 (d) Partner with a statewide nonprofit organization to provide  
27 training and technical assistance to school-based health centers; and

28 (e) Coordinate with the statewide nonprofit organization  
29 providing training and technical assistance, educational service  
30 districts, the health care authority, hosting school districts, and  
31 the office of the insurance commissioner, to provide support to  
32 school-based health centers.

33 (3) For purposes of this section, a "school-based health center"  
34 means a collaboration between the community, the school, and a  
35 sponsoring agency that operates the school-based health center, which  
36 is a student-focused health center located in or adjacent to a school

1 that provides integrated medical, behavioral health, and other health  
2 care services such as dental care.

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